

REPORT TO/DATE/STATUS OF THE REPORT

CABINET on 17 December/ Public

AREA COMMITTEE / NETWORK / COMMITTEE / DATE:

Colne Valley West

TITLE:

Enhancement schemes for Slaithwaite and Marsden

WHY IS IT COMING HERE?/ WHAT DECISION IS REQUIRED?

The report is to notify members of the proposed completion of the Phase 1 environmental enhancement works at Slaithwaite and Marsden with remaining funding in the Heritage Planning Capital Plan.

IS THIS AN URGENT ACTION APPROVED BY THE CHAIR OF SCRUTINY?

No

KEY POINTS:

- In 1999 Kirklees Council and Colne Valley Trust, bid for and were successful in obtaining funding from English Heritage towards a programme of conservation based economic regeneration in Marsden and Slaithwaite involving both property improvements and environmental work.
- This was carried out between 1999 and 2002 and was known as the Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme (HERS).
- The Environmental enhancement works (which include stone paving and new traditional style street lighting) were mainly focused on Britannia Road in Slaithwaite and Peel St/Argyle St. in Marsden.
- There is a figure of £26,000 unspent in the Heritage/Planning Capital budget for 2002/3, which arises from savings on the streetscape works.
- The design of the streetscape works and the decisions on the grant applications were informed by working parties including elected members and representatives of amenity groups such as the Colne Valley Civic Society.
- The working parties identified some priority works, which were not carried out because of uncertainty about funding/costs of the main scheme.
- The outstanding works are :
 - a) Stone cleaning the River Bridge at Britannia Rd, Slaithwaite.
 - b) Clean and paint the railings and bridge at Argyle St. and Weir St, Marsden.
- The previous estimates of the costs of these works are:

Clean River Bridge, Slaithwaite - £8,000.
Paint and clean the river bridge link to Wessen Court, Marsden - £8,000.
Paint the railings adjoining the river at Argyle St/Weir St. Marsden – £7,500.
- The works would provide a good lead in to a new Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme, which will include Linthwaite, Milnsbridge and Golcar as well as Marsden and Slaithwaite, which is hoped to commence in April 2004.

- The works would complement the theme in the Colne Valley Community Action Plan set by the Area Committee for making the Colne Valley cleaner and more attractive.
Similarly the works would complement the proposals for an extended River project phase 2 being run by the Colne Valley Trust with funding from the Heritage Lottery which would provide signage and improved access to the river.

RECOMMENDATION AND THE REASONS WHY THIS SHOULD BE SUPPORTED

It is recommended that the Cabinet agrees to the expenditure of the outstanding Capital Plan funds on the enhancement works previously identified by the working parties.

It should be supported as it completes an agreed phase of work in the centre of these villages and links successfully with future phases to be undertaken by the Council and the Colne Valley Trust.

CONSULTEES AND THEIR OPINIONS

Paul Kemp – Strategic Finance – advised brief report to Cabinet.

Stan Driver – Planning Services – raised no objections to proposed works.

Steve Johnson – Highways Services – confirms no additional funding claims expected for streetscape work in Slaithwaite or Marsden.

Jo Barnes co-ordinator for Colne Valley Trust River Project – supports the proposals, which would complement plans for signing of River Colne and restoration proposals.

Trudi Wright – Area Committee Co-ordinator for Colne Valley, considers that the proposed works would contribute to the Action Plan theme of making the Colne Valley cleaner and more attractive.

CONTACT OFFICER AND RELEVANT PAPERS

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