

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLANNING and TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

27 February 2006

Report of the Director of Planning & Transportation

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 CAPITAL PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Summary

This is a regular report to advise members of the progress with the schemes contained in the Planning & Transportation section of the Capital Plan.

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Engineering and transportation schemes of various types make up a substantial part of the Council's overall capital plan and consequently it is important that progress is kept under regular review. **Annex 1** sets out the current programme of schemes arising from the capital plan review. The bar line against each individual scheme indicates the time frame for design, consultation and implementation. It is used primarily as a management tool for balancing staff and skills resources across the whole programme and as a guide for expected capital expenditure.

1.1.2 The paragraphs that follow explain progress achieved and the next steps for specific projects. The implementation of some projects is the direct responsibility of the Borough Council while in others we are taking a design, facilitating or funding role. Inevitably the schemes mentioned specifically tend to be those with issues to resolve and where members need to be aware of particular problems. This often has the effect of disguising the large amount of work that is generally proceeding well.

1.1.3 Members may have particular project matters to raise and officers will be able to deal with these at the meeting. It would be helpful, to ensure as full a response as possible, if queries could be raised in advance so that any required research, investigation or analysis can be carried out.

1.2 Parking Schemes

1.2.1 **Vale Road Car Park, Tonbridge** – following recent works to re-establish the fencing on the site boundaries, the vegetation has been cleared. The next step is to carry out survey work and devise a cost effective plan to make full use of the area for parking.

1.2.2 **West Malling Local Parking Plan (Ryarsh Lane Car Park)** – The additional land at Ryarsh Lane Car Park has also been cleared to enable survey and design to proceed.

Response from residents to commencement of the scheme has been good. The car park extension and change of use to allow overnight parking are due to be submitted to the Area 2 Planning Committee on 12th April and subject to planning permission being granted, will mean that construction in May is possible.

1.2.3 **Car Park Enhancement Programme** - The first phase of the improvement programme has an allocation of £69k for the coming financial year. The works will be selected from the overall programme on a priority basis with an attempt to package up the various types of work involved such as signing, drainage etc.

1.2.4 **Car Park Action Plans** – The programme of design, consultation and works for car parking matters are reported elsewhere in these papers.

1.3 Community Security Schemes

1.3.1 **Footpath Lighting Schemes** – Three footway lighting schemes will be completed during 2006/7: Hugh Christie to Cage Green Footpath and Ridgeway to Town Acres Footpath are both Tonbridge schemes which were ‘List C’ assessed in the Capital Plan Review. The third is the ‘legacy’ scheme, Byrneside to Leigh Road Footpath in Hildenborough. In addition, the ‘fast track’ scheme to light the footpath between Upper Castle Field and Tonbridge Swimming Pool will also be built subject to its promotion to List A.

1.4 Transportation Schemes

1.4.1 **Fairfield Road Link, Borough Green** – This scheme has unfortunately been subject to delay due to protracted negotiations with one of the land owners involved. However I am optimistic that we can soon move forward though and implement this popular improvement.

1.4.2 **Station Road/Priory Grove Footway, Ditton** – Feasibility stage design work has been completed and a detailed report on the viability of the project will be made to the Board at the next meeting.

1.4.3 **Aylesford Raised Table Crossing (Developer funded)** – I have received a draft form of agreement from Kent Highway Services which would permit the work to be carried out on the public highway. It is clear however that both the agreement and the safety audit have financial implications and I shall need to be assured that these will be met by the developer and not incur costs for the borough council. Consequently there is a little scheme review to do here.

1.4.4 **LTP Programme: West Malling Station Northern Access** – Good progress has been made on the scheme design in consultation with Network Rail and Kent Highway Services. We have submitted details of the improved junction with the public highway for Safety Audit and our submission to Network Rail for the ‘Station Change’ process is imminent.

- 1.4.5 **Wouldham Traffic Management (Developer funded)** – Work has now started on identifying the problems and on options for solutions. I shall allocate priority to this project to ensure that works are implemented early enough to avoid risk to the developer funding.

1.5 Environmental Improvements

- 1.5.1 **Town Lock Area Enhancement** – Public consultation was undertaken in December via the council's website, direct mailing to stakeholder organisations and a two day exhibition at Tonbridge Castle. The response was very encouraging and the issues and suggestions arising will be used to develop the scheme further in conjunction with the emerging town centre strategy. The funding of the complete scheme will require external funding which is being investigated in partnership with the Environment Agency who has a direct interest in this project.
- 1.5.2 **Woodlands Parade Enhancement, Ditton** – Members will recall that this scheme is dependent upon the co-operation of the majority land owner at the parade and we are currently still not able to proceed. This is a frustrating position as this is a worthy scheme but it depends upon the willingness of the owner. Officers are continuing to make efforts to find an agreement and local members will be kept informed of progress.

1.6 Land Drainage & Flood Defence

- 1.6.1 **Pen Stream, Tonbridge** – Initial discussions with a specialist consultant were unsatisfactory in respect of securing a service which is proportionate to the anticipated cost of work. However we cannot undertake the computer modelling in-house so I shall endeavour to include the modelling within a package of similar work to improve the economics of carrying out the investigation.
- 1.6.2 **Aylesford Village Flood Alleviation Scheme** – An initial meeting with the Environment Agency is programmed for early March when options for a formal partnership to progress the scheme, similar to the successful East Peckham model, will be considered. Defra has indicated that grant for next financial year is fully allocated and so on the assumption that grant aid is essential, summer 2007 is the earliest that a scheme could be built.

1.7 List C Assessments

- 1.7.1 A total of nine projects have been selected for evaluation during the coming year:
- Parking Action Plan Phase 6
 - Residents Parking, A20 Ditton
 - Car Park Enhancement Programme Phase 2
 - Residents Parking, New Hythe Lane, Larkfield

- Bone Alley Footway Lighting, East Malling
- LTP Partnership Programme 2007/8
- Bailey Bridge Footway, Aylesford
- Stone Lock Conservation, Haysden
- Upper Castle Fields to Tonbridge Swimming Pool Lighting (Fast Track)

The assessments will be reported to the appropriate meeting of the Finance & Property Advisory Board as part of 2006/7 Capital Plan Review.

1.8 Legal Implications

1.8.1 None

1.9 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.9.1 None

1.10 Risk Assessment

1.10.1 Not applicable

Background papers:

Nil

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