

Report to the Council

Subject: Civil Engineering & Maintenance

Date: 19 February 2008

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Andrew Green

Item: 6(c)

Recommending:

That the report of the Civil Engineering & Maintenance Portfolio Holder be noted.

Parking matters

The six month review of the new parking restrictions in Epping is due to commence shortly. Officers from the County Council have been collating all the responses received since implementation and consideration will then be given as to how best to take the process forward. This will be a difficult decision since it will be important to balance the need to deal with the issues raised over the past six months without undertaking what could easily become full scale parking consultation / review with all the attendant difficulties and of course the costs. Getting this right will be important since how the Epping review is approached will clearly become the model for Buckhurst Hill review which is scheduled to commence in May.

The parking review for the areas surrounding The Broadway is progressing, with the scoping plans having been provided to all local ward members and the town and parish councils. Once the scope of the review is agreed the County Council will engage consultants to undertake the review process.

Roundabout sponsorship

After a considerable delay in agreeing the legal documentation between the County Council, their appointed contractors and this Council, it is pleasing to report that the sponsorship agreement has been signed. It is hoped that this will result in the sponsorship of a number of key locations throughout the district, with the income generated being available to the council to enhance the visual appearance of these key locations and to support other expenditure streams.

Annual watercourse maintenance contract

The new 5 year contract for the maintenance of the Council's watercourses has now commenced. This is important work ensuring that the watercourses for which the Council is the riparian owner are properly maintained and kept free flowing. This is a major contribution to the prevention of flooding in the district, an issue of considerable importance given the continuation of unpredictable weather patterns and extreme weather events.