

CABINET – 10 JULY 2003

MILFORD SEAFRONT: CAPITAL SCHEME

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report seeks approval in principle to the implementation of a scheme to refurbish key elements of the seafront at Milford on Sea. This refurbishment is necessary for whilst on going repairs ensure health and safety requirements are met, it is a maintenance burden that is increasing. The area has not had any significant investment for some time and work to the physical fabric of the promenade and related areas is needed.
- 1.2 The report seeks to gain approval for a project management structure through which to develop the detail of the scheme and its financing. Through this structure a more detailed scheme will be developed to provide the basis of bids for funding.

2. THE SCHEME

- 2.1 There is a long history to the consideration of what to do at Milford Promenade. It has been an aspiration in the Council's Coastal Management Plan for some time. There was extensive public consultation on a scheme drawn up by independent consultants against a brief devised in close liaison with the Parish Council. An informal working group has been developing outline proposals. A plan of the area under consideration will be available at the meeting.
- 2.2 It is recognised at this stage, that in reality funds will be difficult to find, so the project is presented as a series of phases that can be implemented separately if needs be. Those phases are:

Phase One

Re-surfacing of primary walkways, formation of protective raised bunds around car parks, replacement with less intrusive raised kerbs, removal of unsightly bollards, rationalisation of vehicular gates (position type and effectiveness), formation of new lawn area adjacent to Needles Eye Café, new signage cycling, production of a 'master plan drawing' to show all the phases. All works to be clearly identified on a "Master Plan" drawing in due course. Investigate beach hut roof and gap issues. These are the key issues from the point of view of basic health and safety and physical works. They also include a consideration of the security of the sea front areas.

Phase Two

New public toilet. (If the re-phasing of funding allowed, this could be part of Phase One and might be less disruptive to do it all together).

Phase Three

Petanque Terrain. This to be provided and managed either directly by the Parish Council or, more likely, by a commissioned third party. This land is currently owned and managed by the District Council. To facilitate this aspect it would be preferable to arrange a lease of the land to the Parish.

Phase Four

Further “detail” items to conclude any other items requiring ‘tidying up’, for example: street furniture replacement.

Phase Five

Formation / re-inforcement of turf bunds around car parks.

3. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

3.1 There has been very close co-operation between this Council and the Parish Council. The working group that has been taking forward ideas recently, suggests that the Council’s Project management system, which is implemented through two groups.

3.2 The model comprises:

1/. A Possible Project Team:

Officers of NFDC to include Landscape; Valuers; Coastal and Leisure Teams, Clerk to the Parish Council; two Parish Council member representatives and Local District Councillors.

This is the main working body with the task to scope, investigate and undertake the creation of the detailed scheme.

2/. A Possible Project Board:

Portfolio Holders for Leisure and Environment; Director of Community Services; Director of Resources; two Parish Council nominees.

This group keeps the overview, only meeting at agreed set points in the project when they “sign off” progress at those key stages. Given the likely financial implications of the works, a Board has been assembled at the highest level to provide the steer needed.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 At the moment the costs are being met from the allocation of £20,000 for feasibility work. Initial budget estimates suggest indicative costs of £130,000 for phase one.
- 4.2 As a part of the possible funding plan, the Parish Council has identified this scheme as the top priority for the village for the use of developer's contributions. However, these are modest (£23,000) in relation to the overall scheme and one of the key functions of the Project Team will be to present a funding strategy.
- 4.2 There are no immediate implications from this next stage.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Consultation has been a key part of this scheme to date, as set out earlier in the report.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The seafront at Milford is one of the most visited sections of the coast. It is also the one location that offers the potential to cater for increased use by local people and visitors alike. Currently it is "tired" and in need of refurbishment.

7. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There have been difficulties with unauthorised access from travellers' vehicles. The detailing of this scheme would help with that. There are also issues to do with vandalism, principally to the beach huts. The design work should help to address some of this issue.

8. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS

- 8.1 The Portfolio Holders support the recommendations.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 It is recommended that:
 - a) The need for a scheme to renovate the promenade at Milford be supported.
 - b) A project management system be established within the PRINCE structure with representation as outlined in the report

c) As part of the budget process, a more detailed report be presented on the scheme, complete with a funding plan.

For further information contact:

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None

Background Papers:

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