

REPORT TO POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE
21ST OCTOBER 2009

Southampton Road Environmental Improvements
Ownership and Maintenance

1. Set out below is the project team's understanding of the likely extent of ownerships and responsibilities for maintenance following completion of the Southampton Road Environmental Improvements scheme:

- 1.1 Ringwood Town Council

Plant containers, any shrubs and small trees planted in containers and shrubs planted in the ground where associated with the footway entrance from Meeting House Lane into Southampton Road (adjacent to 33A Southampton Road), seats, noticeboard, any art works and any electrical equipment for use during special events.

Note – any planting will be maintained by the planting contractor for the first 12 months, and if the Town Council is willing to take on watering after that time and the usual litter removal and weeding, together with any minor pruning of ground cover plants (and perhaps the addition of some spring and summer bedding if wanted) then the Highway Arboriculturalist will undertake to replace trees when necessary; this could be after a period of some 5-10 years from planting, dependant on species, climate etc.

- 1.2 New Forest District Council

Litter bins and lighting in The Close.

- 1.3 Hampshire County Council

Lighting in Southampton Road, cycle racks, bollards, regulatory signage, pedestrian fingerpost signage, barrier railings, highway paving and trees planted in the ground (if any).

2. The project team is asking for approval in principle by the Town Council to accept both ownership and maintenance responsibility for each of the items listed above.
3. The project team will also look to provide a standpipe to assist with watering and for use at any special events. If an above-ground watering point can be provided, it will need to be inside a lockable, insulated unit; another option is to provide an underground watering point, but this would need the Town Council to provide a hose, and is perhaps less likely to be used easily. Provision and location will be discussed with the design engineer. Until it has been properly investigated and costed, there is no guarantee that this can be included in the scheme.
4. It is RECOMMENDED that Members consider agreeing in principle to accept ownership and maintenance of the items listed in 1.1 and of a standpipe if provision can be included in the scheme.

For further information, contact:

Mrs Jo Stannard
Deputy Town Clerk
01425 473883 or jo.stannard@ringwood.gov.uk