

AGENDA 11, Enc vii) Haydon Ward Doves Corner Improvement Project

Summary

This report gives consideration to a project to improve the 'Doves corner area' in the Haydon Ward under the Ward Environmental Improvement Scheme.

The area has been identified as an area of needing attention, over a number of years, with four overgrown and redundant rockery's, overgrown shrubs, tired paving with shrubbery and ageing public seating.

A site visit took place with Ward Councillors (Cllr. Chambers and Cllr. Wright) and NCC Haydon Ward Councillor Brian Gallacher and the Assets & Development Manager on 22nd October, to look at possible options for improvement. The Assets & Development Manager has subsequently met with Mr Robin Wallace (NCC) and a potential contractor to look at options for improvement and to develop a costed plan of works.

Although Summerhouse Lane is owned and maintained by NCC, ward councillors wish to support a partnership approach to this project, reflecting the successful collaboration seen in previous environmental initiatives.

Proposed Works

Following the visits a programme of works was identified as follows:

Phase 1

- ❖ Remove four rockeries and infill with soil and grass seed (two large near seats and two smaller rockeries' to edge of area).
- ❖ Remove redundant old paving in front of seating area and infill with soil and grass seed.
- ❖ Remove small section of shrubbery that encroaches onto path near the rail crossing (magnet for litter and leaves).

Phase 2

- ❖ Install quality paving where existing seats are situated.
- ❖ Enhance existing shrubbery behind seating area with new low maintenance insect friendly shrub planting.
- ❖ Instal low maintenance, colourful, insect friendly shrub beds in front of existing seating, playing off the existing floral beds in this area. The finer details of this work to be agreed with Councillors and some possible consideration given to wildflower next to the trees on the boundary fence to JT Doves.

Phase 3 - Ashington Town Council Works (When Phase 1 & 2 Complete)

- ❖ Install two quality recycled seats with arm supports which are more accessible. Street master Colwyn Seat (seat style previously agreed by the Town Council).
- ❖ Replace litter bin.

Northumberland County Council have agreed to carry out Phase 1 of the works. Phase 2 would be carried out by local contractors at a maximum estimated cost of £3,500. Phase 3 of the project would be carried out by Town Council NSO's with the anticipated cost of £1,500 for two new public seats and £350 for new litter bin.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Taking all the factors to account, the recommendation for the Council is to develop the project in time for Spring 2025 and include Haydon ward councillors input into developing the new eco-friendly planting.

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Stephen Humphrey - Assets & Development Manager
20 November 2024

Photos of area

