



Report to BEECHES LOCAL AREA FORUM

Title: 'WE'RE WORKING ON IT' PROJECT - 2009/10

To: Beeches Local Area Forum

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Recommendations

1. Beeches Local Area Forum is recommended to **NOTE:**
 - The principles of the 'We're Working On It' project.
 - The 2009/10 programme timescales.
 - Members of the Beeches LAF are invited to identify suitable works to be considered for the Local Community gangs as part of the project during 2009/10 and liaise with the County Council Local Member and Local Area Technician on the specific details.
 - Members of the Beeches LAF will be encouraged to identify priorities for the plane and patch gangs later this financial year to assist the County Council Local Member and Local Area Technician determine the works programme for 2010/11.

Introduction

2. This report has been written to inform LAF members about the principles of the 'We're Working On It' project, funding and the type of work that can be carried out locally through this project and how LAF members can influence the work carried out.

Background

3. The "We're Working On it" project was initiated in 2008/09, following the County Council's decision to invest more resources into highway maintenance in response to local concerns and in order to make a real difference on the ground. The budget for this project in 2008/09 was £3.25 million (county wide) and this has increased by a further £0.95 million this

year (2009/10).

4. The project this year follows similar principles to those adopted last year and falls into three discreet elements. The three elements are road surface plane and patch, white lining and community gangs.
 - **Plane and Patch** – commenced in May and will be completed by October 2009. The work is being carried out in a wave of activity moving south to north through the County, dealing with potholes and road surface defects, prior to the onset of winter. The programme is set out in Table A below from which it can be seen that the plane and patch work in Beeches area has now been completed for this year.
 - **White Lining** – repainting white lines following on behind the plane and patch gangs and will be completed by October. Some work is being carried out overnight (at no additional cost) reducing the impact on the road network.
 - **Local Community Gangs** - the local community gangs carry out activities such as sign cleaning, hedge cutting and general tidying up work to improve the environment and street scene. There is one local community gang allocated to each district area (two in Aylesbury Vale) and they will be operating for the entire year.

Table A

LAF/LCP Area	Programme Date	LAF/LCP Area	Programme Date
Beeches	May	Great Missenden	July
Ivers	May	Chesham	July
Gerrards Cross	May	Wendover	July/August
Beaconsfield	May/June	Aylesbury	July/August
Amersham	May/June	Waddesdon	August
Chalfonts	May/June	Haddenham	August/September
Princes Risborough	June	Winslow	August/September
Chepping Wye Valley	June/July	Wing & Ivinghoe	August/September
High Wycombe	June/July	Buckingham	September/October
Marlow	June/July		

Funding:

5. The total budget for the 'We're Working On It' project for 2009/10 is £4.2 million. This pays for all plant, labour and materials associated with the three elements of the project.

3. The budget for the plane and patch work is sub allocated to each LAF area using a weighted formula as a proxy to reflect need in each area (a base allocation, population, road length and customer contacts).
4. The 2009/10 allocation of funding for the plane and patch work, arising from this methodology, is shown in Table B.

Table B

LAF Area	Funding	LAF Area	Funding
Beeches	£110,200	Princes Risborough	£112,000
Ivers	£94,600	Chepping Wye Valley	£102,800
Gerrards Cross	£90,400	High Wycombe	£134,400
Beaconsfield	£84,000	Marlow	£126,000
SB Area Total	£379,200	WYC Area Total	£475,200
Wendover	£90,400	Amersham	£105,400
Aylesbury	£139,400	Chalfonts	£92,600
Waddesdon	£82,800	Great Missenden	£89,000
Haddenham	£102,400	Chesham	£109,000
Winslow	£90,200	CH Area Total	£396,000
Wing & Ivinghoe	£120,200		
Buckingham	£124,200		
AV Area Total	£749,600		

12. The local community and white lining gangs are funded from within the total budget for the project. This pays for one local community gang allocated to each district area (two in Aylesbury Vale) for the entire year. The white lining gang is similarly funded, although this element of work will cease in October to coincide with the completion of the plane and patch work.

Identifying Work Priorities:

13. One of the main principles of the project is that work is identified by the County Council Local Member, working with the Local Area Technician and other stakeholders. In this way, the work carried on the ground will reflect local community needs and priorities.

Next Steps:

10. LAF members are encouraged to engage with the process of identifying work priorities for the local community gangs this year and communicate the specific details to the Local Member and Local Area Technician for the LAF area.

11. Please note that for the Beeches LAF the plane and patch gangs have completed their work for this year. However, any concerns and requests for highway maintenance or other related works (outside the 'We're Working On It' project) should be passed through to the County Council on 0845 230 2882 or discussed with the Local Area Technician for the area.
12. LAF members will be encouraged to identify work priorities for the plane and patch gangs towards the end of this year to assist the County Council Local Member and Local Area Technician determine the works programme for 2010/11. A further reminder will be given to the LAF later this year.

Local Area Technicians:

11. There are two Local Area Technicians responsible for the Beeches area. Zoe Ford is responsible for the area east of the A355 and up until very recently Martin Keneally was responsible for the area west of the A355. Martin Keneally has recently left the County Council and the appointment of his successor is imminent. Both Local Area Technicians are based in the Amersham area office and can be contacted on 0845 230 2882.