

Community Highway Schemes – Update November 2018

Introduction

The current prioritisation process for Community Highway Schemes (community-led improvement schemes) was established in 2016. This process is a 'prioritised approach' where community requests are considered by assessment against a scoring matrix and the resulting priority scores are used as a basis to establish a forward programme for these works. The programme is subject to funding availability (county council capital funding and developer contributions secured under s106 agreements) and resources.

Evaluation of Submitted Schemes

In line with the agreed process, a moderation team, comprising of officers of from Highways Operations (Area Teams), Highways Improvements and an Independent officer met in August and September 2018 to consider all applications for improvements schemes received by 31 July 2018. Over 60 applications were submitted

It has previously been determined that a minimum score of 40 points is required for a scheme to meet the set criteria appropriate to deliver a sustainable and beneficial highways improvement that aligns with the County Council priorities.

It should be noted a score of over 40 in this process does not always guarantee a scheme will be programmed as it depends on the available budget set on an annual basis.

Results of Evaluation

The 12 schemes achieving the 40 point minimum score and recommended for progression to the next stage of the process are shown in Appendix A, the schemes not achieving the 40 point score and not recommended for progression are also shown in Appendix A.

Approved schemes will form the proposed community schemes programme which will be included on the West Sussex County Council (WSCC) Annual Delivery Programme for design in 2019/20. The Annual Delivery Programme is subject to final budget allocations and programme approval. It is planned to start delivering these schemes as part of the WSCC Annual Delivery Programme from 20/21 onwards (again subject to feasibility & availability of funding).

Some schemes of a more complex nature involving a greater degree of public consultation or legal orders may need to be constructed in subsequent years.

As part of all scheme design and feasibility, there may be issues identified in more detailed investigations and surveys which demonstrate that a scheme is no longer viable.

Rejected schemes in Appendix A will not be progressed. However, should additional supporting information become available they could be resubmitted in the future. For example, if there is a material change to circumstances since the original application that could alter the scoring of the application such as a new external funding opportunity has arisen or a new consultation exercise has been undertaken and provides new supporting evidence.

Update on schemes previously agreed for progression

Currently 36 schemes have been approved for progression since the Community Highway Scheme process was introduced in 2016; progress of these schemes is included in Appendix A.

Future Applications

We would like to encourage online applications for new Community Highway Schemes to be considered for possible inclusion in the 2020/21 annual works programme for design and feasibility. To ensure we meet the new timetable for budget setting and approval, applications need to be received by the end of June 2019.

Appendices

Appendix A – Community Highway Schemes