

Cooper Street, Bideford

Report of the Head of Highways, Capital Development and Waste

Please note that the following recommendation is subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the scheme shown on drawing number EATS(N)545-01-01 be approved at an estimated cost of £76,000 subject to the completion of a funding agreement with Bideford Town Council and Torrige District Council.

1. Summary

The scheme entails environmental enhancement of the end of Cooper Street, Bideford by replacement of the existing surfacing with York stone paving.

2. Background/Introduction

Cooper Street forms a link between Jubilee Square and Mill Street at the heart of the historic centre of Bideford. The purpose of the scheme is to assist economic regeneration by creating an attractive built environment which will help to draw visitors into this area of the town.

Jubilee Square was surfaced in York Stone in 2012 and the success of this scheme has prompted Bideford Town Council, Torrige District Council and a local business (Braddick's Leisure) to offer to fund the resurfacing of Cooper Street in a similar material.

The proposed scheme will enhance the built environment of the street and consequently increase the vibrancy of the local economy.

A funding arrangement for the scheme has been developed and a formal agreement is currently being drafted for the project.

3. Proposal

The proposal is illustrated shown in drawing EATS(N)545-01-00. It is proposed that the existing surfacing is removed and the area resurfaced with York stone paving.

4. Consultations/Representations/Technical Data

Consultation has been undertaken with the Town Council, District Council and Chamber of Commerce with a significant level of support received. The scheme was also presented to the public during a formal consultation in 2010 as phase 2 of the Jubilee Square/Manor car park enhancements.

For completeness, Torrige District Council also held a final consultation event on Friday 10 May in Bideford to ensure that all the businesses in that haven't seen the scheme had the opportunity to do so. Flyers have been distributed to all businesses in the town, and District and County Councillors and Chamber of Commerce have been advised.

The project is supported by the District Council's planning department and the Conservation Officer, who view the proposals as an enhancement to the historic heart of the town. It accords with the Local Plan which seeks to enhance the form of the built environment.

Some concern has been raised by traders on Cooper Street as to whether the street will be closed for the duration of the project. The works will be managed in sections to maintain the existing traffic flows and business activities will continue as usual. This process has recently been implemented with success in Fore Street, Ilfracombe.

It is intended that the works will commence in the second week of September and are likely to take eight weeks to complete.

5. Financial Considerations

The estimated cost of this scheme is £76,000 which will be funded by Bideford Town Council, Torrridge District Council and Braddicks Leisure.

6. Sustainability Considerations

The objectives and strategies of the Devon Local Transport Plan aim to improve Devon's environmental, social and economic well-being.

The scheme supports this objective by enhancing the built environment which should assist the economic wellbeing of the town.

7. Carbon Impact Considerations

The scheme will not significantly change the use of vehicle in the area and is therefore has no impact other than construction.

8. Equality Considerations

There are not considered to be any equality issues in regards to this scheme.

9. Legal Considerations

There are no specific legal considerations.

10. Risk Management Considerations

Financial risk has been identified and appropriate allowances within the scheme estimate have been made to protect the Council's position. Bideford Town Council has accepted the liability for any overspend.

11. Public Health Impact

There will be no specific impact to public health.

12. Options/Alternatives

Various options have been considered in iterative consultation with Bideford Town and Torridge District Councils and the current proposal is considered to offer the best contribution to the built environment in the area.

13. Reason for Recommendation/Conclusion

The proposed scheme will enhance the built environment of this historic area of Bideford and will assist with economic regeneration of the area.

David Whitton
Head of Highways, Capital Development and Waste

Electoral Division: Bideford East

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

Contact for enquiries: Rhys Davies

Room No. Civic Centre, Room 511, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 1ED

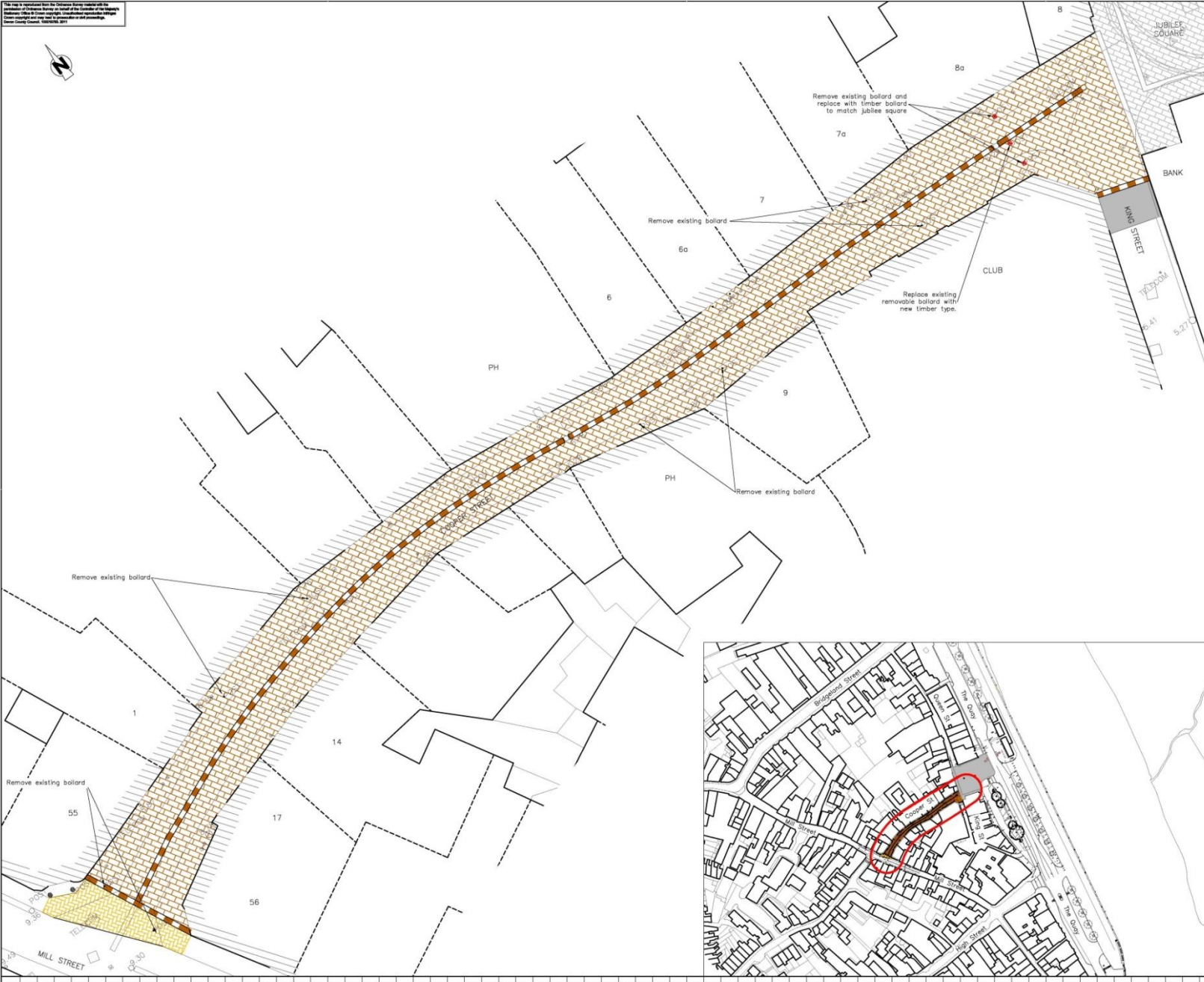
Tel No: (01392) 388526

Background Paper	Date	File Reference
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None

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REVISIONS		
no.	date	details

NOTES	
no.	details

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designer	PCR	drawn	PCR	checked	XX
scale	1:100	date	03 2012		



Engineering Design Group

Civic Centre
Barnstaple
EX31 1ED
Tel. 0845 155 1004
Fax. 01392 382342
customer@devon.gov.uk
www.devon.gov.uk

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**Cooper Street, Bideford
Enhancement Scheme**

DRAWING TITLE

Consultation Plan

drawing number
EATS(N)545-01-01

