
Meeting of Executive Members for City Strategy and Advisory Panel

16 July 2007

Report of the Director of City Strategy

PETITION FROM THE RESIDENTS OF CHAUCER STREET REQUESTING THE RETENTION OF FLAGSTONES

Summary

1. This report advises Members of the receipt of a petition in the form of a question and tick box answer survey, presented by Councillor Ruth Potter.
2. The petitioners object to the Council replacing the existing defective precast concrete paving slabs with a new bituminous surfacing.
3. A copy of the petition is attached as Annex 1.
4. Members are asked to consider the options outlined in the report and approve the recommendation to include this section of footway in our 2007/08 Resurfacing and Reconstruction Programme (R&R Programme).
5. A plan showing the area to be resurfaced is attached as Annex 2.

Background

6. Members will be aware that officers undertake a variety of highway inspections, including an annual inspection each June of all the roads and footways within the Council's area.
7. This inspection together with all the safety inspection reports and other Council inspection reports is used as a database which shows the general condition of the Council's roads and footways.
8. All those roads found to be in a poor condition from these inspection reports are subsequently reassessed in October and November to prioritise our planned programmes of work for the forthcoming financial year.
9. The June 2006 Condition Survey identified the condition of the footway in Chaucer Street as being a Grade 3 (poor condition).
10. This footway was included on the Council's provisional list of streets to be inspected last October and November with a view to forming part of our 2007/08 R&R Programme.

11. Following the October/November assessment when all the factors are taken into consideration this footway scored high enough to make the actual programme.
12. As a result members approved at the March Emap Committee to carry out the scheme in accordance with the Council's paving policy and in line with the current advice given by the department for transport in respect of footways being resurfaced which are directly adjacent to carriageways.
13. In accordance with our current policy, following approval for the scheme by Members, letters were sent out and informing residents that the Council intended to replace the defective flagstones with a bituminous surfacing. They were further advised that if they were content with this they need do nothing but if they would like to retain the flagstones this could be a possibility if the extra over cost for providing same, on an enhanced foundation, could be funded by the ward committee.

Consultation

14. Councillor Pierce's view is that funding of the extra over works is unlikely to be supported by residents at large and he would like to see the existing paving remain. At the time of writing Councillor Cregan had not made his views known. They will be reported at the meeting if any are forthcoming.

Options

15. Option 1

Continue with the scheme as designed in accordance with the current paving policy.

16. Option 2

Leave the street as it is in order to comply with the residents wishes and carry out minor works scheme to replace broken flags.

17. Option 3

Refer it to the ward committee for the extra over funding to provide and lay thicker precast concrete flagstones on an enhanced foundation.

Analysis

18. Option 1

This option is in line with the Council's established paving policy and complies with the latest Department for Transport guidelines on giving best value in highway maintenance. It will also ensure that this years programme for resurfacing works can continue on target and enable the Council to inherit a safe and sustainable walking surface in Chaucer Street.

19. Option 2

This option will clearly please the residents but will also mean the Council will continue to have a walking surface that presents a potential risk to its residents, which is not the case with either of the other options. The Council will have to carry out a basic maintenance works scheme now with further works required for the foreseeable future in order to manage the risk of potential third party highway accident claims which may result from an uneven walking surface.

20. Option 3

Refer the issue to the ward members to see if the ward committee wish to fund the extra over costs to retain the concrete paving slabs.

Corporate Priorities

Maintenance of the public highway has a direct impact on several of the Council's corporate aims and priorities:

21. Corporate Aim 1: (Environment)

Take pride in the City by improving quality and sustainability, creating a clean and safe environment.

Specific priorities:

- 1.1 Increase resident satisfaction and pride with their local neighbourhoods.
- 1.2 Protect and enhance the built and green environment that makes York unique.
- 1.3 Make getting around York easier, more reliable and less damaging to the environment.

22. Corporate Aim 3: (Economy)

Strengthen and diversify York's economy and improve employment opportunities for residents.

Not directly relevant to any of the specific priorities, but good quality highway infrastructure is vital to the local economy.

23. Corporate Aim 4: (Safer City)

Create a safe City through transparent partnership working with other agencies and the local community.

Specific priority:

- 4.7 Make York's roads safer for all types of user.

24. Corporate Aim 8: (Corporate Health)

Transform City of York Council into an excellent customer-focused "can do" authority.

Specific priority:

- 8.9 Manage the Council's property, IT and other assets on behalf of York residents.

Implications

Financial

25. Option 1

Should members decide to continue with the scheme as designed, then there will be no additional financial implications other than the direct cost of £13,000 for carrying out the scheme budgeted for in this years Capital Programme.

26. Option 2

Should members choose option 2 the initial minor works scheme would cost in the order of.£1000 with a further ongoing maintenance commitment.

27. Option 3

Option 3 would cost £23,500, £13,000, from this years footway Capital Programme, and the remainder £10,500 would have to come from the ward committee.

Human Resources (HR)

28. Option 1

There are no human resource implications in respect of this option as the scheme has already been designed and awaiting implementation.

29. Option 2

Option 2 would probably lead to increased reports of hazardous paving and increased maintenance costs and possibly having to deal with a third party claim all of which would tie up an inspector for a period of time.

30. Option 3

The implications of this option are that the scheme would have to be redesigned by a member of our Neighbourhood Services staff as Neighbourhood Services now manage and build footway schemes for City Strategy.

Equalities

31. There are no equality implications.

Legal

32. The City of York Council in its capacity as the local highway authority has a statutory duty under Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 to maintain the public highway.

Crime and Disorder

33. There are no crime and disorder implications.

Information Technology (IT)

34. There are no IT implications.

Property

35. There are no property implications.

Other

36. There are no other implications.

Risk Management

37. In compliance with the Council's Risk Management Strategy, the main risks associated have been identified in this report as risks arising from hazards to assets and people. (Physical) those which could lead to financial loss (financial), and non-compliance with legislation (Legal and regulatory).
38. Measured in terms of impact the likelihood of risk, the score if option 1 or 3 are chosen have been assessed at less than 16, this means that at this point the risk need only be monitored as they do not provide a real risk to the achievements of the objectives of this report.
39. Should Members choose option 2 then the risk score would rise to 16 meaning precautionary measures would have to be put in hand to reduce the risk. This would take the form of increased frequencies of inspections which would result in basic maintenance works as and when required.

Recommendations

40. That the Advisory Panel advise the Executive Member for City Strategy to:
- (i) Note the receipt of the petition
 - (i) Consider approval of Option 1 in paragraph 15.
 - (ii) Advise the lead petitioner of the decision taken by Members.

Reason: to comply with current Council policy and ensure that the highway maintenance budgets are expended in the most cost effective way based on the Council's assessed priorities.

Contact Details

Author:

Fred Isles
Maintenance Manager
Highway Infrastructure
Tel No.01904 551444

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Damon Copperthwaite
Assistant Director (City Development and
Transport)

Report Approved

Date 03/07/07

Specialist Implications Officer(s) Report Author

Wards Affected: Hull Road

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: none

Annexes

Residents Petition Annex 1

Plan of Area Annex 2

Dear Fred,

Please find enclosed 10 responses to a letter that I circulated in Chancer Street following receipt of your letter about footpath resolutions.

There are 20 houses and 10 have responded. All the responses say that they do not want to be changed and they would prefer the street to remain the same.

The only cracked flags are at the junction with Nicholas Street.

Is it possible to look at this issue again.

Please note this is the street on which I live.

Many thanks
Russ Potter

ANNEX 1

Dear Neighbours,

Footpath resurfacing work in Chaucer Street.

I would be grateful if you would fill in the following questions to see who in our street wants to keep the pathway as it is and who would want it repaired with tarmac or with York stone flags.

I have to say that I prefer the flagstones we have to the tarmac.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,
Ruth Potter,
18 Chaucer Street

	Yes	No
Do you want the tarmac as suggested in the letter instead of the flagstones that we currently have?		
Do you want to keep the street as it is?	✓	
Do you want to apply to the Ward Committee for replacement York stones flags?		

Name.....JUSTIAN CRAY.....

Address.....5 CHAUCER ST.....

.....

Dear Neighbours,

Footpath resurfacing work in Chaucer Street.

I would be grateful if you would fill in the following questions to see who in our street wants to keep the pathway as it is and who would want it repaired with tarmac or with York stone flags.

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I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,
Ruth Potter,
18 Chaucer Street

	Yes	No
Do you want the tarmac as suggested in the letter instead of the flagstones that we currently have?		✓
Do you want to keep the street as it is?	✓	
Do you want to apply to the Ward Committee for replacement York stones flags?	✓	

Name Tom and Hisano Rendai - Mundy

Address 4 Chaucer St, York, YO10

BEH

Dear Neighbours,

Footpath resurfacing work in Chaucer Street.

I would be grateful if you would fill in the following questions to see who in our street wants to keep the pathway as it is and who would want it repaired with tarmac or with York stone flags.

I have to say that I prefer the flagstones we have to the tarmac.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,
Ruth Potter,
18 Chaucer Street

	Yes	No
Do you want the tarmac as suggested in the letter instead of the flagstones that we currently have?		X
Do you want to keep the street as it is?	X	
Do you want to apply to the Ward Committee for replacement York stones flags?	X	

Name... DAVID WILSON

Address... 3 CHAUCER ST.

.....

Dear Neighbours,

Footpath resurfacing work in Chaucer Street.

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Ruth Potter,
18 Chaucer Street

	Yes	No
Do you want the tarmac as suggested in the letter instead of the flagstones that we currently have?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Do you want to keep the street as it is?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Do you want to apply to the Ward Committee for replacement York stones flags?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Name... Krystyna Grybas

Address... 14 Chaucer Street

.....

Dear Neighbours,

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18 Chaucer Street

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Do you want the tarmac as suggested in the letter instead of the flagstones that we currently have?		✓
Do you want to keep the street as it is?		
Do you want to apply to the Ward Committee for replacement York stones flags?	✓	

Name... RUTH + TOM

Address... 1A CHAUCER STREET

.....

Dear Neighbours,

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Best wishes,
Ruth Potter,
18 Chaucer Street

	Yes	No
Do you want the tarmac as suggested in the letter instead of the flagstones that we currently have?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Do you want to keep the street as it is?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you want to apply to the Ward Committee for replacement York stones flags?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name MISS B LAKE

Address 10, CHAUCER STREET,

LAWRENCE STREET, YORK, YO10-3EH

Dear Neighbours,

Footpath resurfacing work in Chaucer Street.

I would be grateful if you would fill in the following questions to see who in our street wants to keep the pathway as it is and who would want it repaired with tarmac or with York stone flags.

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I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,
Ruth Potter,
18 Chaucer Street

	Yes	No
Do you want the tarmac as suggested in the letter instead of the flagstones that we currently have?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Do you want to keep the street as it is?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Do you want to apply to the Ward Committee for replacement York stones flags?		

↳ If this is the only option then yes however if we can keep it as it is then I would apply for that.

Name Korhya A. Williams

Address 15 Chaucer St

.....

Dear Neighbours,

Footpath resurfacing work in Chaucer Street.

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Best wishes,
Ruth Potter,
18 Chaucer Street

	Yes	No
Do you want the tarmac as suggested in the letter instead of the flagstones that we currently have?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Do you want to keep the street as it is?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you want to apply to the Ward Committee for replacement York stones flags?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Name ALLEN KENTISH - BARNES

Address 6 CHAUCER STREET

York YO10 - 3EH

Dear Neighbours,

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Best wishes,
Ruth Potter,
18 Chaucer Street

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Do you want the tarmac as suggested in the letter instead of the flagstones that we currently have?		
Do you want to keep the street as it is?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Do you want to apply to the Ward Committee for replacement York stones flags?		

Name JOHN WILLIAM JEFFERY

Address 16 CHAUCEER ST.

Nothing has been spent on maintaining the flagstones since I have lived here in 1971. → so why go to the totally unnecessary expense and upheaval.

J W Jeffery

Dear Neighbours,

Footpath resurfacing work in Chaucer Street.

I would be grateful if you would fill in the following questions to see who in our street wants to keep the pathway as it is and who would want it repaired with tarmac or with York stone flags.

I have to say that I prefer the flagstones we have to the tarmac.

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Best wishes,
Ruth Potter,
18 Chaucer Street

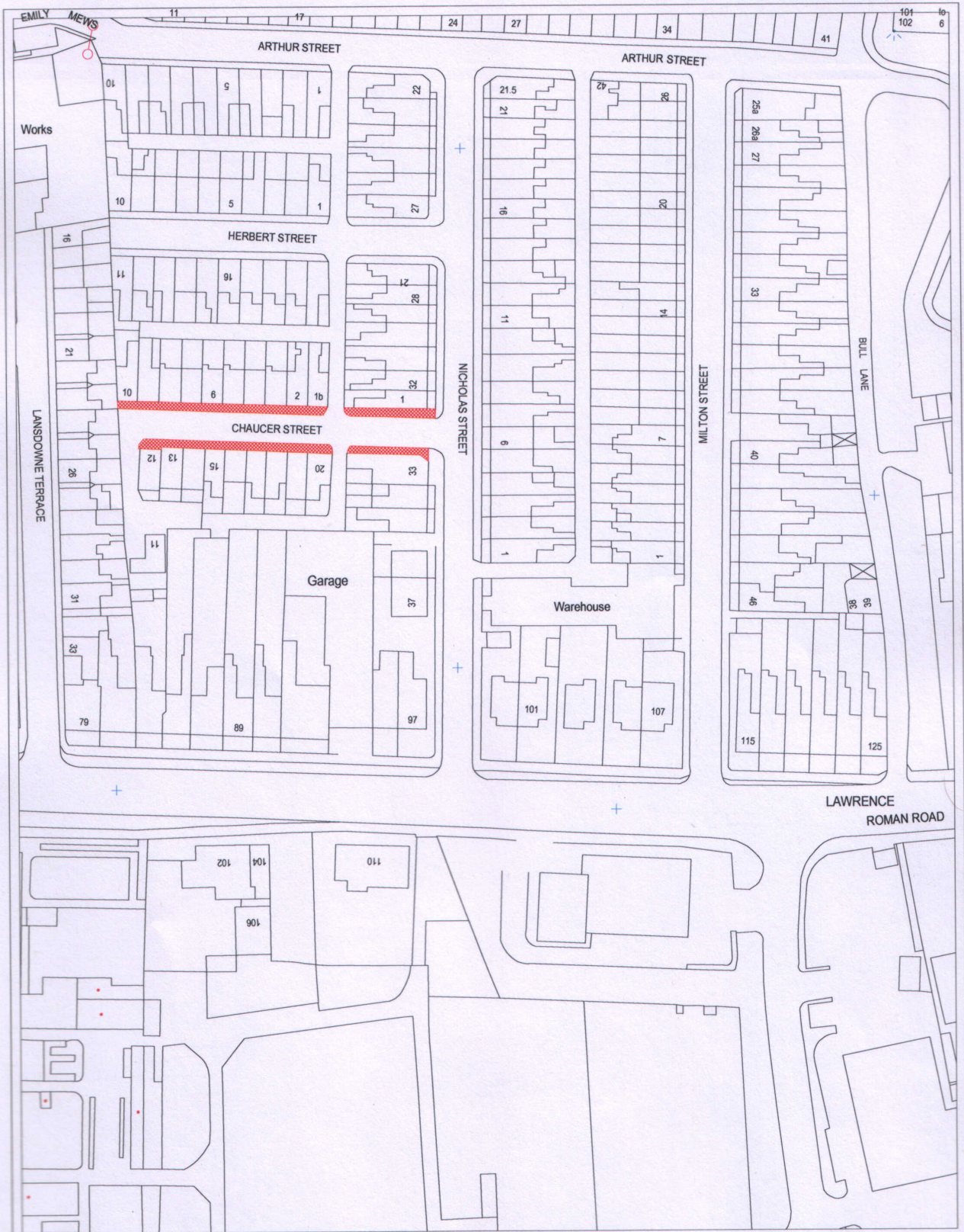
	Yes	No
Do you want the tarmac as suggested in the letter instead of the flagstones that we currently have?		
Do you want to keep the street as it is?	✓	
Do you want to apply to the Ward Committee for replacement York stones flags?		

Name..... *Ruth Potter*

Address.....

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ANNEX 2



Chaucer Street, Hull Road

SCALE 1:1000

DRAWN BY DRowntree

DATE 31/3/2007

GRID REF.

Drawing No. R&R 07/08 FW-23



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