

HANDRAIL INSTALLATION NEAR MIRRLEES FIELDS
AT THE RAILWAY BRIDGE, WOODSMOOR

Report of the Corporate Director for Place Management and Regeneration

1. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

- 1.1 That Area Committee consider the allocation of a delegated sum for the repair of a handrail at the railway bridge near Mirrlees Fields, Woodsmoor and approve the provision of the sum to be invested.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The location forms part of a very busy pedestrian route to Mirrlees Fields, Woodsmoor railway station and the nearby estates for local residents.
- 2.2 The safety of users especially wheelchair users has been a serious concern along the railway bridge because of the exposure on the side of the path and the drop in height to the drainage channel.
- 2.3 At least one accident involving a wheelchair user has been reported at the exposed side of the path, which resulted in the wheelchair user falling into the drainage channel.
- 2.4 As a popular walking route, the safety of children, dog walkers and the elderly could be compromised during busy seasons and also during periods of darkness.

3. IMPROVING SAFETY AT THE FOOTBRIDGE

- 3.1 An estimate of £4,432.50 p has been obtained from Totally Local Company to provide and lay 30 linear metres of tube clamp fencing under the railway bridge.
- 3.2 The installation of the handrail will improve safety for pedestrians and wheelchair users at all times. As a result of such a safety assurance, more users will enjoy walking in the local area and it will contribute in improving the overall wellbeing of the local population.
- 3.3 The improvement will complement an important objective of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan, to improve access for all users including users with disability. It will therefore reinforce inclusiveness in enjoying outdoor activities within the borough.

4. SUMMARY

- 4.1 Following complaints from the public and at least one accident involving a wheelchair user, there was need to install a handrail at the railway footbridge. The estimate obtained from Totally Local Company (£4,432.50p) is to improve safety for pedestrians, local residents, dog walkers and users with disability, who choose to enjoy the footpath. The installation of the handrail will therefore enhance safety at the railway bridge.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 It is considered desirable to install a handrail at the railway bridge to improve safety for all the users of the footpath. The delegated sum will be invaluable in resolving safety concerns at the location and will greatly benefit the local population.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The Area Committee is recommended to allocate the delegated sum described in the report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none

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