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SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

5th February 2018

To: Chairman & Members of the Swavesey Byeways Advisory Committee

1. Review of Maintenance 2017/18 and Anticipated Expenditure for 2018/19

- 1.1 Councillor Ellington and the Council's Head of Environment Commissioning, Paul Quigley, inspected the Byeways on Thursday 1st February 2018 in order to assess their current state of repair and the likely level of maintenance required in the coming year, 2018/19.
- 1.2 Although the Byeways were in relatively good condition last year, as reported at the last meeting of the Byeways Committee on 7th February 2017, the surfaces of the most frequently used sections of Byeway, particularly Middle Fen, Hale Road, Scotland Drove, Cow Fen, Mow Fen and Tipplers Drove have continued to deteriorate and will definitely require maintenance in 2018. This deterioration has arisen due to the lack of availability of suitable, locally sourced, materials at reasonable cost throughout 2017 and although efforts will continue to source material this may continue into 2018. There has therefore been no expenditure on materials to-date.
- 1.3 Attached as Appendix 1 is a breakdown of the last five year's annual expenditure per Byeway.
- 1.4 As can be seen from the report of the Executive Director – Corporate Services (1.4) it is estimated that on 31st March 2018, there will be a balance of £2,200 on the Chargepayer's account. This balance is a result of the lack of availability of suitable materials throughout 2017/18. An estimated balance of £6,335 will also be available in the contingency account at the end of 2017/18 for any emergency or special works.
- 1.5 The balance of £2,200 could be added to the contingency fund for emergency works. If, however, the 2017/18 charge of £1.10 per hectare is maintained for 2018/19, providing a further £2,500, it could be added to this, resulting in a total of £4,700 available in 2018/19 for the potential purchase of more readily available higher quality, but higher priced material.
- 1.6 Alternatively, a zero-rate could be set for 2018/19, but there is every possibility that if there was a continued lack of availability of material at a reasonable cost the surface of the Byeways would continue to deteriorate further necessitating greater expenditure in the future.
- 1.7 It is therefore recommended that for 2018/19 the Committee support considering the purchase of higher quality material, albeit at higher cost, in

order to increase the likelihood of suitable materials being obtained for maintenance.

- 1.8 It is further recommended that, in view of the report of the Executive Director Corporate Services, the Committee advise the District Council to maintain the present charge of £1.10 per hectare for the period of 2018/19,

For Discussion and Recommendation

2. Voluntary Maintenance Arrangements

- 2.1 Under the current arrangements the District Council manages the maintenance programme and budget, ordering materials, collecting the rate etc, whilst Chargepayers voluntarily provide labour and plant to spread materials.
- 2.2 At the meeting of the Advisory Committee in February 2017, it was decided to continue with this voluntary arrangement, which has worked reasonably well in the past but is increasingly becoming unsustainable as Chargepayers become less able to provide labour.
- 3.2 It is recommended that the voluntary arrangements are applied for the coming year but that alternative, longer term arrangements, including potentially the use of external contractors and the financial consequences on the charge per hectare, are investigated and reported back to the Committee.

For Discussion and Recommendation

Mike Hill
Director – Health & Environmental Services

SWAVESEY BYEWAYS

Appendix 1

Five Year Expenditure Summary 2012 - 2017

Byeway	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	5 Year Average
Cow Fen	650	560	700	0	0	382
Hale/Mow	780	840	840	145	0	521
Scotland/Boxworth	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utton/Tipplers	1170	1120	980	145	0	683
Middle Fen/River Fen	260	420	140	145	0	193
Brick Kiln	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lairstall	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turnbridge	0	0	0	0	0	0