

## SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**REPORT TO:** Council

23 February 2012

**AUTHOR/S:** Executive Director, Operational Services / Corporate Manager Health and Env. Services

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### SWAVESEY BYEWAYS RATE 2012/13

#### **Purpose**

1. To report on the annual meeting of the Swavesey Byeways Advisory Committee and to set the level of the Swavesey Byeways rate.

#### **Recommendations**

2. It is recommended that the advice of the Advisory Committee, as detailed below, is accepted and agreed.

#### **Reasons for Recommendations**

3. Since the enactment of the Byeways legislation in 1984, local chargepayers have agreed to provide labour and plant on a voluntary basis while the Council provided materials for use along the byeways. This arrangement has enabled costs to be kept to a minimum and the byeways rate has been maintained at 90 pence per hectare for land within the inclosure area. No increase for the new financial year is, therefore, proposed.

#### **Background**

4. The Swavesey Byeways Act 1984 governs the financial provision for maintenance of the Swavesey Byeways. Under the Act the District Council is required to determine the amount of money necessary for maintenance in each financial year. It can then recover 50% of this amount from the Byeways Chargepayers at a uniform amount per hectare of land within the chargepaying area.
5. The Swavesey Byeways Advisory Committee is an informal group comprising representatives of chargepayers, parishioners, the Parish and District Councils. The Advisory Committee advises the District Council on all matters relating to the discharge of its byeways responsibilities including the level of maintenance and the level of the Byeways rate.

#### **Considerations**

6. The advisory Committee met on 31 January 2012 to consider the level of maintenance required in the coming year and the level of rate required. The agenda and supporting documents from the Executive Director Corporate Services and the Corporate Manager, Health and Environmental Services, which were presented to the meeting, are attached as **Appendix A**.

### **Effect on Strategic Aims**

7. Accepting the advice of and engaging with the advisory committee is in line with the Council's Aim to being a listening Council. Additionally, a reasonable level of maintenance to the byeways will help ensure the local environment is a safer and healthier place. Finally, agreeing to works to the byeways will allow the voice of the local rural community to be heard and enhance local economic activity by improvements to the local road infrastructure.

### **Advice of the Advisory Committee**

8. The Advisory Committee agreed that the District Council should be advised as follows:
  - (a) Maintain the current level of byeway maintenance for the period 2012/13.
  - (b) Levy a rate at 90 pence to fund the required maintenance for the period 2012/13.

**Background Papers:** the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

Swavesey Byeways Advisory Committee Agenda, Reports and Draft Minutes

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