



Report To: Council

25 February 2016

Lead Officer: Director, Health and Environmental Services

Swavesey Byeways Rate 2016/17

Purpose

1. To report on the annual meeting of the Swavesey Byeways Advisory Committee held on 26 January 2016 and to set the level of the Swavesey Byeways rate.

Recommendations

2. The Swavesey Byeways Advisory Committee recommends Council:
 - (a) to maintain the current level of byeway maintenance for the period 2016/17
 - (b) to levy a rate at £1.10 to fund the required maintenance for the period 2016/17

Reasons for Recommendations

3. Since the enactment of the byeways legislation in 1984, local charge payers 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 to be maintained at 90 pence per hectare for land within the inclosure area. However, due to increases in the cost of materials over recent years, the Advisory Committee recommended last year that the rate should be increased to £1 per hectare. A further increase in the rate to £1.10 has been recommended for the year 2016/17.

Executive Summary

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 Charge Payers at a uniform amount per hectare of land within the charge paying area.
5. The Swavesey Byeways Advisory Committee is an informal group comprising representatives of chargepayers, parishioners, the Parish and District Council. 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 26 January 2016 to consider the level of maintenance required in the coming year and the level of rate required. A draft copy of the minutes of the meeting as well as supporting documents, which were presented to the meeting, are attached as **Appendix A**.

Options

7. Council could opt to set an alternative rate for 2016/17.

Implications

8. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk management, equality and diversity, climate change, community safety and any other key issues, there are no significant implications.

Consultation responses

9. No consultation has been undertaken.

Effect on Strategic Aims

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 on 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.

Background Papers

No background papers were relied upon in the writing of this report.

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