

## **SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT**

### **REPORT OF THE HEAD OF FINANCE and SECTION 151 OFFICER**

To: The Chairman and Members of the  
Swavesey Byeways Advisory Committee

20th January 2022

1. The following background notes are provided as a reminder of the present position and as assistance in determining the amount to provide for maintenance.
  - 1.1 The Swavesey Bye-ways Act 1984 provides for an annual charge to be made to charge payers expressed as a rate per hectare. The charge for 2021-2022 was set at £1.20. A similar charge for 2022-2023 is estimated to produce an amount of £1,640.
  - 1.2 The cost of collecting the charge in 2022-2023 is estimated at £300. The cost can be minimised only if all charge payers pay promptly and without the need for costly reminders.
  - 1.3 There was a balance of £11,534 in the contingency account at the end of 2020-2021, this is available for any emergency/special works. It is projected that this fund is likely to increase in this financial year if the policy continues of adding the remaining income left over once all expenditure has been accounted for at the end of the financial year.
  - 1.4 Swavesey Byways have benefitted this year by the receipt of £7,585 as part of the A14 legacy fund. This sum is held in an earmarked reserve fund by Swavesey Parish Council and will be regularly drawn down to purchase and spread if necessary, raw material across appropriate sites throughout the Byways area. At the time of writing this report, £800 has been spent on road planings delivered to Cow Fen Drove and Hale Road.
  - 1.5 Because of this windfall, there hasn't been a requirement to allocate any money from the Swavesey Byways Ratepayers' Account during the year. It is envisaged that the whole of the 2021-22 allocation and the respective matching contributions from the District and Parish Council's be transferred to this contingency fund in 2021-22. The total allocation to the contingency fund in 2021-22 is therefore projected to be £3,260.
  - 1.6 A decision is sought on the appropriate rate to be set for 2022-23.  
The options are:
    1. Set a nil rate and utilise the remaining A14 legacy fund held by Swavesey Parish Council first.
    2. Keep the rate set at £1.20 per hectare and acknowledge that this money may then be required to be transferred to the emergency contingency fund pending the utilisation of the A14 legacy fund.
    3. Set an alternative rate per hectare.

The table below shows what has been spent on maintaining the Byeways over the last three years and how this maintenance has been paid for.

	2020	2021	2022
Maintenance	2,475	5,425	*800
Paid to Contingency Fund	870	2,849	*3,260
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,345</b>	<b>8,274</b>	<b>4,060</b>
Charged to Ratepayer Account	-1,673	-1,637	-1,630
Charged to District Council	-1,137	-1,113	*-1,100
Charged to Parish Council	-535	-524	*-530
Charged to A14 Legacy Fund	0	0	*-800
Paid from Contingency Fund	0	0	0
Anglian Water Compensation	0	-5,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>-3,345</b>	<b>-8,274</b>	<b>-4,060</b>

\* Estimated

Balance on the A14 Legacy Fund is estimated as £6,785.

1.7 If the rate was to remain at £1.20 per hectare for 2022-23, the budget would then be:

	£	£
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Maintenance / Emergency Fund	3,000	
Collection costs	300	
		<u>3,300</u>
<b>Income</b>		
Charge payers		
£1.20 per hectare	(1,640)	
		(1,650) 50%
South Cambridgeshire District Council		(1,122) 34%
Swavesey Parish Council		<u>( 528) 16%</u>
		<u>( 3,300)</u>

1.8 At the end of the current financial year the monies held in the emergency fund could climb to an estimated £14,794, assuming any further expenditure between now and the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 will be met from the A14 legacy fund. The balance on the contingency account had increased in recent years as the maintenance budget had not always been fully utilised.

P Maddock  
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