



Report to:	Council	27 February 2024
Lead Cabinet Member:	Councillor Henry Batchelor, Lead Cabinet Member for Waste & Environment Services	
Lead Officer:	Head of Waste & Environment	

Swavesey Bye-ways Rate 2024/25

Executive Summary

1. To report on the annual meeting of the Swavesey Bye-ways Advisory Committee held on 25th January 2024 and to set the level of the Swavesey Bye-ways rate.

Recommendations

2. The Swavesey Bye-ways Advisory Committee Recommends to Council that;
 - (a) It retains the level of the Swavesey Bye-ways rate at £1.20 per hectare for land within the charge paying area for the period 2024/25 in order to fund the required level of maintenance.

Details

3. The Swavesey Bye-ways' Act 1984 governs the financial provision for maintenance of the Swavesey Bye-ways. 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 Bye-ways Charge Payers at a uniform amount per hectare of land within the charge paying area and 16% from the Parish Council.
4. The Swavesey Bye-ways Advisory Committee is an informal group comprising representatives of charge payers, parishioners, the Parish and District Council. The Advisory Committee advises the District Council on all matters relating to the discharge of its Bye-ways responsibilities including the level of the bye-ways rate.
5. The Advisory Committee recommended an order and allocation of suitable surfacing materials to repair Cow Fen in preparation for repairs to be carried out by rate payers / landowners. Future repair requirements will be determined in the drier Spring months and throughout 2024/25 and requirements will be discussed by the advisory committee if necessary.
6. The Advisory Committee discussed options for future billing to rate payers, with an objective of exploring possibilities to reduce annual collection costs and time

associated with collecting the Bye-way rates. The Bye-Ways committee will explore viable options with Peter Maddock around collecting future rates 3 or 5 yearly, as well as by direct debit.

Reasons for Recommendations

7. Since the enactment of the Bye-ways legislation in 1984, it was agreed where a bye-way is intensively used by ratepayers and they are unable to assist with manual support for repairs, the surface grader could be used. Any surface grader use would be paid for at the appropriate commercial rate. The Council would arrange materials for use along the bye-ways, funded by the Bye-ways rate.
8. The Advisory Committee, having considered the current condition of the Bye-ways and are satisfied that a rate of £1.20 per hectare for land within the charge paying area for the period 2024/25 will be sufficient to fund the required level of maintenance, subject to the availability of suitable material.
9. In addition to the income, the balance of the A14 legacy fund (£6,784.60) will be held in an earmarked reserve fund, held by Swavesey Parish Council and will be regularly drawn down to pay for the running costs and maintenance of the Bye-ways grader. This grader was purchased from the A14 legacy fund contribution to enable continued maintenance of the Bye-ways top surface.

Options

10. Council could agree the recommendation of the Advisory Committee or opt to set an alternative rate for 2024/25.

Implications

11. In the writing of this report, considering financial, legal, staffing, risk, equality and diversity, climate change, and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered: -

There are no significant implications.

Consultation responses

12. Consultation has been undertaken with parishioners, the Parish Council and local landowners through the Swavesey Bye-ways Advisory Committee.

Alignment with Council Priority Areas

Growing local businesses and economies

13. Accepting the advice of, and engaging with, the Advisory Committee contributes towards protecting, maintaining, and improving the natural and built environments, and enhancing local economic activity.

Background Papers

Head of Finance Report 2024
Head of Environment Report 2024
Bye-way Inspection report LH-SE 2024

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