

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT

REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND RESOURCES DIRECTOR

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

19th January 2005

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 chargepayers expressed as a rate per hectare. The charge for 2004-2005 was set at 90 pence. A similar charge for 2005-2006 is estimated to produce an amount of £1,235.
 - 1.2 The cost of collecting the charge in 2005-2006 is £178. The cost can be minimised only if all chargepayers pay promptly and without the need for costly reminders.
 - 1.3 There was a credit of £435 in the chargepayers' account at 31st March 2004. An estimated balance of £466 was taken into account when setting this year's charge – this leaves an estimated debit balance of £31 in the chargepayers' account as at 31st March 2005.
 - 1.4 There will be an estimated balance of £4,038 in the contingency account at the end of 2004-2005 that is available for any emergency/special works. However, because the balance in the chargepayers account has now been fully utilised, to sustain the maintenance of the bye-ways at its current level will either require an increase in the rateable charge, or a subsequent allocation being made from the contingency reserve.
 - 1.5 As the proposal is for the rateable charge to remain at 90 pence per hectare for 2005-06, it is suggested that £170 be allocated from the contingency account in 2005-2006 for the sole purpose of maintaining the upkeep of the bye-ways.
 - 1.6 It is recommended to provide an amount of £2,400 for maintenance in 2005-2006.
 - 1.7 The budget for 2005-06 would then be:

	£	£
Expenditure		
Maintenance	2,400	
Collection costs	178	
Contingency	<u>(170)</u>	
		<u>2,408</u>
Income		
Chargepayers		
90 pence per hectare	(1,235)	
Balance in Chargepayers' account	<u>31</u>	
		(1,204) 50%
South Cambridgeshire District Council		(819) 34%
Swavesey Parish Council		<u>(385) 16%</u>
		<u>(2,408)</u>

- 1.8 The balance on the contingency account had increased in recent years as the maintenance budget had not always needed to be fully utilised and the deferred costs of the Local Act have now been paid.

G. J. Harlock
Finance and Resources Director