

## SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**REPORT TO:** Council  
**AUTHOR/S:** Director, Health and Environmental Services

27 February 2014

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### SWAVESEY BYEWAYS' RATE 2014/15

#### Purpose

1. To report on the annual meeting of the Swavesey Byeways Advisory Committee held on 28 January 2014 and to set the level of the Swavesey Byeways' rate.

#### Recommendations

2. The Swavesey Byeways Advisory Committee recommends to Council,
  - (a) to maintain the current level of byeway maintenance for the period 2014/15, and
  - (b) to levy a rate at 90 pence to fund the required maintenance for the period 2014/15

#### 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 to be 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 28 January 2014 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 the agenda and supporting documents, 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 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:** 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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