



Report To: Council

26 February 2015

Lead Officer: Director, Health and Environmental Services

Swavesey Byeways Rate 2015/16

Purpose

1. To report on the annual meeting of the Swavesey Byeways Advisory Committee held on 10 February 2015 and to set the level of the Swavesey Byeways rate.

Recommendations

2. The Swavesey Byeways Advisory Committee recommends for Council:
 - (a) to maintain the current level of byeway maintenance for the period 2015/16
 - (b) to levy a rate at £1 to fund the required maintenance for the period 2015/16

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 has recommended the rate should be increased to £1 per hectare. This is the first time the Committee has recommended an increase since the legislation was enacted in 1984.

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 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 10 February 2015 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**.

Options

7. Council could opt to set an alternative rate for 2015/16.

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 (including from the Youth Council)

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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