

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

7th February 2017

To: Chairman & Members of the Swavesey Byeways Advisory Committee

1. Expenditure for 2016/2017 and Five Year Expenditure Summary

1.1 Attached as Appendix 1 is a breakdown of the current year's expenditure, together with the last five year's average annual expenditure per Byeway.

2. Review of Maintenance and Anticipated Expenditure for 2017/2018

2.1 Councillor Ellington and the Council's Awarded Watercourse Supervisor undertook an inspection of all the Byeways on Monday 10th January 2017 in order to assess their current state and the likely level of maintenance required in the coming year.

2.2 The condition of the Byeways can be summarised as such:

Middle Fen Drove – Acceptable up to the busway, larger holes are appearing from busway on to River Fen Drove. The larger holes may require re-shaping prior to infilling. After the turn to River Fen Drove there is a long (~10m) water filled hole which was not passed by car. The drove appeared fine after that point. It was apparent that the 20T load delivered in December had been recently used on parts of the drove. Much of the load remained.

River Fen Drove – the surface of the drove appeared to be in an adequate state.

Lairstall Drove – It was noted that a pile (~20T) of planings was still present at its start. The drove was in a good condition with only a few larger holes present. These holes may need re-shaping prior to in-filling.

Cow Fen Road – the surface of the drove appeared to be in a very good condition. There were a few holes forming at the entrance to the riding stables. The drove after this point appeared little used with grass down it and no wear.

Brick Kiln Drove – No evidence of use by vehicles. The surface of the drove appeared to be in a very good condition. No work needed.

Mow Drove - The surface of the drove appeared to be in a good condition with a few larger holes developing. The drove is overall considered to be in a good condition which reflects the improvement work undertaken by Mr Dawson to allow work at Covell's Drain embankment (100m+ of hardcore had been placed down to address rutting forming at the bend near RSPB lakes).

Hale Drove - The surface of the drove appeared to be in a good condition with only a few minor holes developing. There were a few larger holes present outside of the Windmill. It was apparent that the 20T load delivered in December had been recently used on parts of the drove.

Scotland Drove - The surface of the drove appeared to be in a good condition up to the entrance of the Traveller's site. After that point the drove had a less firm surface but was usable with some slight rutting developing.

Tipplers Drove - The surface of the drove appeared to be in a very good condition with only a small amount of minor rutting. It was apparent that the 20T load delivered in Dec had been recently used on parts of the drove. The whole 20T load had been used.

Uttons Drove - The surface of the drove appeared to be in a very good condition, except for the final length near to the A14.

- 2.3 It is recommended that the Committee advise the District Council to maintain the present level of maintenance in view of the report of the Executive Director Corporate Services and the unanimous decision at the last meeting to increase the levy charge to £1.10 per hectare for the period of 2016/2017.

For Discussion and Recommendation

3. Voluntary Maintenance Arrangements

- 3.1 At the meeting of the Advisory Committee in January 2016, it was decided to continue with the voluntary maintenance arrangements for the Byeways whereby the Chargepayers provide labour and plant to spread materials.
- 3.2 Under the current arrangements the District Council manages the maintenance programme and budget, ordering materials, collecting the rate etc, whilst Chargepayers voluntarily provide labour and plant to spread materials. This arrangement has worked reasonably well in the past and it is recommended that the same practices are applied for the coming year.
- 3.3 There had been one request for material in June 2016. The Land Drainage Manager had not been able to meet the request due to no such material being available locally at a suitable cost.
- 3.4 In mid-December a source of material became available. 3 20T loads were purchased "off the belt" and delivered to Middle Fen, Hale Drove and Tipplers Drove. No such material is currently available.

For Discussion and Recommendation

Mike Hill
Director – Health & Environmental Services