

# **Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council**

**Full Council 13/01/2022**

## **Mortimer to Burghfield Cycleway and Footpath Project**

**Agenda item 21/105 5: TO RESOLVE the placement of orders for the first surveys required towards planning application up to a value of £8500 +VAT.**

### **BACKGROUND**

Following the rather inconclusive preapp report that was received from West Berkshire Council, Councillor Morsley and Steve Watts of Ridge & Co held a meeting with the Planning Case Officer. During this he confirmed that some of the report pertained to the wrong route. He also confirmed that WBC was keen to be able to support this project. It was suggested we submit some specific questions (3) to the Highways Officer. The reply received only answered two of the questions so a meeting was then held with the Highways Officer. This was a very positive meeting and the queries were resolved.

Ridge & Co then provided a timetable and breakdown of costs required to produce a planning application. This included quotes from various specialist surveys and audits which the preapp response indicated would be required.

The Mortimer to Burghfield Footpath/Cycleway Working Party reviewed this and was not happy about the possibly inappropriately extensive scope of some of the work proposed. A meeting of MBFCWP was then held with Ridge & Co where it was agreed that the ecological and arboricultural work should be discussed with the relevant officers at WBC to ascertain whether a less extensive scope can be defined; Ridge & Co would then obtain new quotes for those two large pieces of work which will hopefully be somewhat less. It was agreed to proceed with Topographical survey, Utilities searches, Ecological desktop study (this is a standalone piece of work which would precede the larger ecological survey) and Road Safety audit. Ridge & Co provided a quote for the project management of this work.

In addition, Ridge & Co have investigated the implications of part of the route being on registered Common land and confirmed that the project should not need any additional permissions.

The relevant WBC officers for the two meetings required to discuss arboricultural and ecological work required have been identified and contacted but at the time of writing meetings have not been arranged.

## **COSTS**

Quotes for the initial necessary work are:

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|---|----------|
| • Topographical survey  | £4750.00 |
| • Utilities searches  | £984.02  |
| • Ecological desktop study (including purchase of third-party data) | £930.00  |
| • Traffic Management Consultants Stage 1 Road Safety audit          | £699.00  |
| • Ridge & Co for commissioning and overseeing these surveys:        | £990.00  |

**TOTAL**

**£8353.02 +VAT**