

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Full Council 13/07/2023

Mortimer to Burghfield Cycleway and Footpath

Agenda item 23/043 4. To receive an update and consider the recommendations of the Working Party and resolve:

- a. A budget of up to £5,000 to obtain:**
 - i. More detailed costings broken down into, for example, project management, detailed design, footpath, bridge, crossing, other highways work, signage.**
 - ii. A new project construction plan including establishing lists of potential suppliers of the elements in i. above.**
- b. To contact appropriate grant giving bodies and make applications as their timescales dictate, once planning permission is granted.**
- c. To allocate the £36,207 in the Earmarked Reserve (EMR) Sinking Fund Community Projects to the cycleway/footpath project, renaming the EMR appropriately, once planning permission is granted.**
- d. To transfer the remaining cycleway/footpath CIL balance, approximately £105,000, to the new EMR once established.**

BACKGROUND

The planning application for the project was validated on the WBC planning portal on 26th June, the standard consultation expiry date is 20th July and the determination deadline 21st August; the reference is 23/01524/FUL.

As of 5th July, the application had not yet been assigned a case officer. It is likely the dates shall slip because of this. However, due the standard consultation expiry date of the 20th of July, relevant third parties, such as the local schools, surgeries, and Burghfield, Wokefield and Sulhamstead Parish Councils, have been approached and asked to submit letters of support within the consultation period.

Whilst waiting for the outcome of the application there are several further actions that should be taken to enable the project to progress as promptly as possible once planning permission is granted.

Develop Project Plan and Cost Details

To apply for some grants, more detailed estimates of the construction costs will be needed; Ridge & Partners have quoted £1500 for producing this. It is recommended quotes should also be obtained from CampbellReith Consulting Engineers and one further third party.

Further information is required on how the procurement and construction process is going to be managed; on how the costs will be divided among different contractors and how all the contractors are to be managed. There are several possible scenarios which are rather different from the assumption at Ridge & Partners that they would manage everything; some of these scenarios may well be more cost

effective and more suitable for a project of this size. For example, one possible scenario is where WBC are contracted to manage and deliver the highways element.

It is recommended that in addition to seeking quotes for more detailed estimates of the construction costs, quotes are also sought for a project plan which will include lists of potential suppliers for the various elements of the construction. Hence the request for up to £5000.

On approval of the application, the above information will enable grants to be applied for and consideration to be given to which company to use for the management of the next stages.

Funding

An estimate from last November, gives the constructions costs for this project at £450,000. The estimate is not very detailed (hence the need for work above) but it is fair to say it is unlikely to be less! There is approximately £105,000 left of the original £150,000 allocated to this project and it was always expected that further funding would be necessary to achieve the total budget required.

The following local fund providers have been identified and, because of the size of the project, it is recommended that initial conversations are had with them prior to making an application. A formal application would not be made until planning approval has been received:

- Mortimer Relief in Need
- Greenham Common Trust
- The Good Exchange
- Englefield Trust
- AWE
- Burghfield Parish Council

In addition, there are some more regional/national grants such as:

- Active Travel through WBC if a new tranche becomes available
- Berkshire Community Foundation
- Syder Foundation
- National Lottery Community Fund
- British Horse Society

Applications will have to fit in with their timetables, so this is a general request for permission to apply for grants at the appropriate time.

Community Projects Earmarked Reserve (EMR)

When applying for grants, evidence of the Council's financial situation will be required.

There is currently an EMR of £36,207 called Sinking Fund Community Projects. This EMR was set up to tackle the community projects stemming from the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). The cycleway/footpath is the only one of those which is currently live and as that money has sat untouched

for over 6 years, the recommendation is to reallocate it to cycleway/footpath project when the application is approved.

At that point, it is also recommended that the remaining CIL money which was agreed for the project is transferred into the same EMR. This will be tidier and show the Council is maximising the amount it can allocate to the project.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Obtain more detailed costings of the project, a project construction plan and lists of potential suppliers.
2. To contact appropriate grant giving bodies. and, once planning permission is granted, to make applications as their timescales dictate.
3. Once planning permission is granted to:
 - Submit grant applications to meet relevant deadlines.
 - Allocate the £36,207 in the Earmarked Reserve (EMR) Sinking Fund Community Projects to the cycleway/footpath project.
 - Transfer the remaining cycleway/footpath CIL balance, approximately £105,000, to the new EMR.

Cllr. D. Morsley/Clerk 06/07/2023