

Report No.10

Report to Town Hall and Facilities Committee 7th January 2015

Refurbishment of the St Aldhelm's Mead footpath

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. To consider proposals received from local contractors to refurbish St Aldhelm's Mead footpath.

2. Background

- 2.1. Numerous complaints over the past few years have been received by the Town Council about the state of the footpath that runs around the children's play park in St Aldhelm's Mead during periods of wet weather.
- 2.2. The path is unsightly, uneven, and very narrow and becomes extremely muddy with pools of water after heavy rainfall or in the event of occasional flooding.
- 2.3. Dog walkers in particular have complained because the option to walk through the play park is not available to them as dogs are prohibited from this area. Despite this restriction dog walkers often ignore this notice and take this route to avoid the risk of a fall on the unmade footpath.
- 2.4. This was brought to the committee's attention via a report presented at the Town Hall & Facilities meeting held on 21st January 2015. Officers were asked to explore options for refurbishment of the pathway, with costings and bring them back for review and further action.

3. Proposals

- 3.1. Officers asked 4 local tradesmen to submit proposals for repairing the pathway, with indicative costs, bearing in mind the financial constraints the council has to operate under.
- 3.2. To carry out a comprehensive refurbishment of the pathway would involve significant cost, so a sample scheme was indicated to contractors by officers, which they believed would solve the key problems at a reasonable cost. This comprised of:
 - Dig out existing path and level, line with membrane or weed resistant material, fill with scalplings and compact. Erect gravel boards along both sides of the path. Fill with level ballast and compact.

4. Contractor Response

- 4.1 Three proposals were received from contractors.

Contractor A: £3566
Contractor B: £1400
Contractor C: £ 890

- 4.2 The three proposals fall in line with the sample scheme suggested by officers in 3.2 above, with some minor variations. Prices submitted varied significantly and officers believe this is due primarily to the scope of works proposed by individual contractors, the standard of materials to be used and the "quality" of the end product.

5. Financial Implications and Risks

5.1 This project was included in the tasks for the Committee in 2015-16 with a notional estimate of £10K. Finance would need to be approved by the P&R Committee and taken from Council reserves.

5.2 Although notional provision of £10K would support a more comprehensive upgrade of the pathway, (and Members may choose to explore that option further), it may be prudent to commission one of the proposals in 4.1 as a satisfactory, albeit shorter term solution, until an assessment can be made of the improvements and the impact on the playground path, following the flood works yet to be undertaken.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 Members are asked to consider the proposals and costs submitted by contractors A, B, and C for the refurbishment of the St Aldhelm's Mead pathway and decide which proposal they might wish to endorse, or alternatively advise officers of further options they would like to explore.