

Bawdsey Parish Council – 13 Jan 2015: Items 7.iii and 8.iii

Bawdsey Quay Visitor Centre

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To provide Bawdsey Parish Council (BPC) with a general update on progress with the Bawdsey Quay Visitor Centre (BQVC) project and propose specific action regarding the required piling work

2. General Update

2.1 Significant progress has been with the overall BQVC project by the BQVC Working Group and Project Team. The final Business Case will shortly be presented to the Parish Council for information and approval.

2.2 The key workstreams of the BQVC project are:

- I. Transfer of the Amenity Site from Suffolk Coastal District Council (SCDC) to BPC
- II. Procurement and installation of water supply and sewerage treatment
- III. Procurement and installation of piling for the BQVC building
- IV. Funding, procurement and construction of the BQVC building
- V. Commencement of BQVC operation
- VI. Review of future governance arrangements for the BQVC project

2.3 The Parish Council will have an opportunity to further review and scrutinise all aspects of the project at the special mtg to be convened to consider the final Business Case. However, there is an immediate decision required regarding the project piling due to the time restriction availability of funding from the Coastal Revival Fund.

3.Piling

3.1 The conditions on the site consist of loose or very soft alluvial soils which extend to about 5 m depth and therefore further investigations were commissioned to assess options for the foundations to the BQVC building.

3.2 P Chick & Partners, consultant civil & structural engineers with offices in Ipswich and Norwich (working with A.F.Howland Associates, Geotechnical Engineers based in Norwich) have undertaken the necessary calculations for appropriate piling. Chick then produced a specification upon which to invite quotes, in effect acting as an agent on behalf of BPC, and in doing so following financial standing orders of BPC concerning tendering procedures ie:

- I. Regulation 9.3 requires that the Responsible Financial Officer shall seek a minimum of three tenders and a tender shall include a full specification. A full specification was sent to three contractors local to the site and who had previously been contacted to gauge interest and availability to meet the timeframe.

- II. Regulation 9.4 requires that tenders be discussed at Council meetings - this report will be presented to BPC On 13 Jan 2015
- III. Regulation 9.5 states that the Council is not obliged to accept the lowest tender

3.3 The responses to the tendering procedure was as follows (Company names not being published in the public domain at this stage due to commercial sensitivity but will be supplied to Parish Cllrs in closed section of meeting).

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| I. Company A | £16295 for 11m long piles |
| II. Company B | £9840 for 7m long piles |
| III. Company C | £11771 for 12m long piles |

3.4 The analysis of the tenders by Chick is as follows:

- I. Company A have based their proposal on 11m long piles, though have not visited the site. There is no reference to security fencing and welfare facilities have been excluded.
- II. Company B have based their proposal on 7m long piles. The extra over rate is £75 per metre and applying this to the difference between 12m long piles, incurs an additional £5250, producing a weighted final cost of £16295.
- III. Company C have visited the site, allowed for welfare and fencing and for 12m long piles. They have also allowed for a discount should piling lengths be less than 12m.

3.5 Chick also points out that the final costs will relate to the total lengths of pile installed, which may be deeper in places due to local ground conditions

3.6 On the basis of the above, Chick would recommend the appointment of Company C

3.7 BPC has the money to pay for the piling by virtue of the grant of £25,000 from the Coastal Revival Fund (CRF). However, the money has to be spent before the 31st March 2016 and in addition authorisation would be required from SCDC as landowner (given that the land transfer has not yet occurred) and also the accountable body for the CRF.

Recommendations

The Working Group therefore make the following recommendations to BPC:

1. The Chick recommendation for Company C be accepted and, subject to the consent of SCDC to undertake the piling, that the work be undertaken as soon as possible, and in any event, before the end of March 2016 to meet the CRF deadline.
2. That any balance of the £25,000, to be spent before 31st March 2016, is used for various technical fees associated with the piling and associated work. The detailed decision on the use of the residual balance be subject to agreement by the Chairman of the Parish Council in consultation with the Chairman of the BQVC Working Group.

Background Papers

- Letter from JP Chick and Partners dated 9 Dec 2015 inviting competitive bids from contractors
- Specification Drawings
- Ground Investigation Report