

Report of the Working Group to the Parish Council July 2016

Membership

As the Parish Council is aware the Working Group has lost the valuable services of Tony Osanski. We have been fortunate in that Lou Lennard has agreed to give some limited administrative help although she will not be attending meetings of the Group. However, the Working Group still needs additional members who can provide practical help.

The Business Case

The Working Group's Business Case that was approved by the Parish Council was presented to SCDC who also approved it. The result was that SCDC agreed to the release of money to pay for the installation of the new water main and a new sewage system. It decided that it would not release further funds to contribute towards the building of the Visitor Centre until the Parish Council had successfully concluded its fund raising.

Project Management

The Parish Council has agreed to pay for the services of Peter Vadden to assist the Working Group with project management and fund raising. He has already produced a valuable cost analysis of the project. This has been circulated. In addition he has given further assistance in the production of a time line for the project that has also been circulated.

Licence to undertake work

A licence by which SCDC agrees to the Parish Council undertaking the necessary work for the installation of the water and sewage on the site has been agreed by both parties and signed.

The supply of water

Four quotations had been received to install the water main from East Gate Lodge to the Amenity Site. Anglian Water £166,000. R&D Construction £144,703+vat, Claret £46,646+vat and RJM Elite £38,900 +vat. It was decided on the grounds only of cost, not to pursue the tender process with Anglian Water and R & D Construction. There had not been full compliance with the tender document by one of the other potential contractors and so ten supplementary questions were sent to Claret and R & D. By the deadline for responses only Claret had replied. After discussion the Parish Council agreed to appoint Claret as the approved contractor. Claret have been informed of the appointment and BJ, AR and PW will meet with representatives of the firm

on Wednesday 3rd August to discuss the work to be done and the contract in more detail. For information, after appointment and conclusion of the discussions re the terms of the contract, Claret's lead in time is 2 -3 weeks with a duration of the work a maximum of 8 weeks. This could mean that mains water is installed by mid -November. Enquiries are being made with J P Chick as to whether they are in a position to supervise the installation on behalf of the Parish Council and the cost of such supervision.

The installation of a suitable sewage system.

It has been reported previously that it seems unlikely that a discharge system would be feasible because of the high water table on the site and the difficulties in finding a suitable discharge point, albeit Chris Mann had indicated that, in principle, there could be a discharge into a water course on his land. It therefore appeared that it would be necessary to install a "conventional" tank that is emptied periodically. Subsequently conversations with a contractor indicated that a discharge system would still be possible. This has raised uncertainties as to what system would be best for the site. The Parish Council has thus commissioned an independent report to be prepared by J P Chick advising on the most suitable type of sewage system having regard to the difficulties presented by the site. This report will include a topographical survey as well as cctv investigation of the existing pipe work. As a result of this report the Parish Council will have all the necessary information upon which to create a clear specification upon which to go out to tender.

The cost of building the visitor centre

Three estimates had been received ranging from £233,971 to £293,338 each ex vat. This was clearly beyond the figure originally budgeted for. As a result Ralph Carpenter (the Parish Council's architect) entered into discussion with the firm providing the cheapest quote to see what savings can be made. Savings were identified by reducing the timber content of the structure and using steel elements. David Cantril at Chick's undertook some redesign work to accommodate this. The result has been that the potential contractor has been able to reduce his estimate to £187,875 ex vat. No further work has been done on organizing the build given the need to complete all of the fundraising.

The finances of the Working Group.

Jenny Webb will inform the meeting of the up to date state of the BQVC bank account, on 15th July the balance was £7,276.90.

Funding issues

the project has secured

- a grant of £10,000 from SCDC

- a grant of £25,000 from the Coastal Revival Fund
- a payment from SCDC of the remaining money left from the £180,000 after the installation of water and sewage. This figure will not be known until these installations have been completed but is estimated to be between £75,000 and £90,000.

Peter Vadden has completed and submitted the Stage 1 application for the LEADER fund. If successful there will be a round 2 application to be completed. However, because this is partly funded by European money decisions on the outcome of this application have been postponed for the time being in the light of the referendum vote to leave Europe. We hope to hear the outcome of the application within the next month.

Peter Vadden will also complete an application to the HLF Coastal Communities Fund and The Steel Charitable Trust.

Both of these applications could, if successful, result in awards of substantial sums of money.

Additionally, Peter Wain has submitted applications to the Alfred Williams Charitable Trust, The Lord Belstead Charitable Foundation and the Peter Samuels Charitable Trust. He has draft applications to submit to the Suffolk Rural Foundation, the Dulverton Trust, the Roger and Sarah Bancroft Charitable Trust, and the Lord Barnby Charitable Trust when he returns to Suffolk in ten days time.

These applications are all for small amounts of money (between £1,000 and £5,000) but are nonetheless important.

A recent garage/car boot sale in the village raised a welcome £200. However continued fundraising is still vitally important to cover on-going development costs.

Bird Boxes.

All the bird and bat boxes have been installed on the site with the exception of the two owl boxes. Rawdon has very kindly volunteered to get together a small team to install these. If there are any volunteers please would they let Rawdon know.

Woodland Trust Trees.

A team of volunteers is required for a winter task namely lifting the trees from behind the parish hall, identifying suitable planting locations and replanting. This needs to be done in consultation with Peter Ross. I need somebody to co ordinate and supervise this project.

Summary

This remains an exciting project and overall it continues to make progress albeit the rate of progress can be frustratingly slow. It is hoped that the water and sewage will be completed by no later than the end of the year. This will be a major achievement by the village. Concurrently funding applications continue to be made to bridge the funding gap. This is an inspirational community project and it is to be hoped that more members of the community will become more practically involved.

Peter Wain

15th July 2016