

Cradley Parish Council :

Lengthman & Parish Path Partnership [P3] Schemes

Monthly Report : April 2016

Dear Councillors ,

Plans to take up a new L/P3 Contract were discussed at our April CPC Meeting . After much hassle , the final figures for expenditures have been obtained from B-B and a summary is detailed below .

Since mid-March , no L/P3 work has been carried out and cannot recommence until a new Contract and a Lengthsman are in place , In the meantime , B-B have been kept informed of events and have taken over the work in the parish until such time as CPC can recommence the work . As Scheme Administrator , I continue to liaise with our Locality Steward [Cathy Berkeley] for the sake of good order and continuity .

[1] Final Statement for 2015 -2016 L/P3 Grant expenditure :

To the best of my knowledge the figures below are now correct and effectively sign off the 2015 -2016 Contract between CPC and B-B /HCC .

CPC 2015-2016 Expenditures [Final]

		Actual Expenditure
Allocated L Grant	£3245	£4577
Allocated P3 Grant	£3336	£1061
CPC Match funding	£2000	NIL
HC Match Funding	£2000	NIL

Conclusion :

- Total Expenditure for 2015 -2016 was **£ 5638**
- NO Match Funding Required
- The Expenditure figures cover all Labour , Material and set up Equipment costs
- Note that the schemes did not fire up until June 2015 [ie c. 9 months work]

[2] 2016-17 L/P3 Contract :

Further to CPC's authorisation [at March 2016 CPC Meeting] to proceed to arrange a new 2016 -2017 L/P3 Contract with B-B /HCC , I can report that the Contract has now been signed by our Chairman and Clerk and has been sent to B-B for approval and the HCC Seal . Also , a 2016-17 Annual Maintenance Plan and Grant Funding application has been submitted .

When these are duly returned , it will be possible to put the appointment of a Lengthsman for 2016 17 , out to tender in order to obtain best value for money .

[3] Full Funding of Scheme from 01 04 2017 :

Councillors will recall that at our last meeting I sought CPC support for the L/P3 Schemes going forward with PC full funding from the start of year 3 [ie From 1st April 2017] . However , this was discussed but held over pending the AGM of CPC in May .

At the AGM I will again be seeking Council support for Year 3 funding . Below , I estimate the likely implications for the funding via the Cradley Parish Precept .

We could envisage the recruitment of either :

[a] A skilled Lengthsman . [Fully qualified and able to provide his own suitable vehicle , tools and equipment , storage]

Or

[b] An unskilled Lengthsman [Ken , willing to learn and up-skill , fit , with a practical bent]

Hourly pay rates would reflect the options

Estimated costs of the schemes [L/P3]

Budgeting Costs based upon experience of 2015-16 :

- Say 48 weeks pa worked at 1day per week = 48 days Labour pa
- Average 7Hrs /day
- Average £150 per month – Materials
- Labour Rate /Hr [a] Unskilled £10 - £12 p/hr , say £11 /hr average
[b] Skilled £ 18 -20 p/hr , say £19 p/hr average

Cost to CPC per annum :

	<u>Option</u>	<u>Labour Cost</u>	<u>Materials</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
[a]	Skilled	£ 6384	£1800	£8184
[b]	Unskilled	£ 3696	£1800	£5496

However , CPC already has £2000 pa built into the Precept so the additional amounts needed to be added to the Precept from April 2017 would be either [a] £6184 or [b] £3496 dependent upon which route was taken .

NB If an unskilled person was appointed then the PC would need to provide training and equipment costs and in this event , the likely costs would increase towards the costs of a skilled Lengthsman by the end of the 3rd year .

To conclude , 2015-2016 is completed and grants from B-B are in the kitty .

CPC must now provide guidance / approval of the forward plans for the Lengthsman /P3 schemes which enables the council to hire a Lengthsman in the full confidence that the scheme will continue into 2017-2018 , knowing that the whole community has been nothing but supportive and appreciative of the work already done in the parish .

A CPC commitment is essential for the scheme to go forward

Geoff Fielding – Scheme Administrator