

Project & Amenities Committee Meeting 29th March 2022

Arrangements for the maintenance of Council owned spaces with Homefield College

1. Purpose

To propose that the Committee accept the agreement to enter into an arrangement with Homefield College to provide to undertake the maintenance on our land whilst providing training and work experience opportunities.

2. Recommendation

2.1. To agree to enter into a three-year agreement with Homefield College at £2000 pa total £6000 to undertake the maintenance of hedges, etc.

2.2. To agree the broad principles as outlined in the agreement and to delegate the final agreement of detail to the Parish Manager.

3. Report

3.1. The Council does not have a contract for the cutting, pruning and maintenance of hedges, shrubs and bushes it is responsible for on its land. This was reported on a few months ago and it was agreed to go out to tender for this work.

3.2. Subsequently discussions have been held with a local training provider about using the work the Council needs undertaking as a training opportunity and work experience for its students. It has taken some time to bring this to a practical conclusion and a draft agreement is attached which sets out the arrangements proposed.

3.3. This represents a new approach for the Council which is capable of providing considerable benefits to both parties bringing the needs of the college to have real work experience to meet the needs of the Council which requires this work to be undertaken. As such it could be a very effective partnership of mutual benefit.

3.4. The agreement would be for three years with annual reviews, be properly monitored and to an acceptable standard for both parties. The agreement sets out all the health and safety requirements etc.

3.5. It also represents a significant cost saving for the council as the alternative would have been to engage contractors.

4. Financial Implications

4.1. The total spend for this is proposed as £6000 over three years and can be found from the several provisions for maintenance in 2022/23 i.e., the same budgets we would have used for one off contractors, and built into the budget for the subsequent years with adjustments to other budget headings.

Ross Willmott

Parish Manager