



GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 84/14

13 OCTOBER 2014

The purpose of this paper is to ask Members to consider and respond to the choices set out in a letter from the Isle of Wight Council's Recreation, Leisure and Public Spaces Service for the future funding of grounds maintenance from 1 April 2015.

No. DETAIL

1) CONTEXT

- a) The Isle of Council's Recreation, Leisure and Public Spaces Strategic Manager, Alex Minns, has written to all Town and Parish Councils to ask them to indicate their preferred option for grounds maintenance when the Isle of Wight Council ceases to fund it from 1 April 2015 by the end of October.
- b) Maintaining the Island's 400 hectares of parks, greens, plants and grassed areas currently costs £700k a year. Of that total £200k is for cemeteries and that work the Isle of Wight Council will continue.
- c) Of the remaining £500k, Principal Parks – of which Ventnor had two: Ventnor Park and the Cascades – account for £350k.
- d) The Isle of Wight council has now decided to continue funding the Island's Principal Parks, though the Cascades is no longer classified as one of them: removing Ventnor Park from local responsibility reduces the total being considered now by £38,160.
- e) Nansen Hill LNR and the Landslip SSSI (£5,500) and Rew Down LNR (£7,300) have also been removed from local responsibility.
- f) The new list of Ventnor areas for which grounds maintenance will not be funded after 31 March next year – attached to the this report – consists of 20 sites with a current contract cost in total of £20,386.

2) OPTIONS

- a) The attached matrix, issued by Alex Minns, identifies five options for funding these costs and asks the Town Council to complete the matrix with its choices by the end of October.
- b) The listed options are:
 - A) Fund all the sites in a new Isle of Wight Council grounds maintenance contract at current specification.
 - B) Fund all the sites in a new Isle of Wight Council grounds maintenance contract at a reduced specification.
 - C) Make a % contribution to sites in a new Isle of Wight Council grounds maintenance contract.
 - D) Maintain the sites through the Town Council's own contractor.
 - E) Not make any contribution to the new grounds maintenance contract or carry out maintenance.

3) PUBLIC BUILDINGS WORKING GROUP

- a) The Town Council's consideration of the matter at its September meeting determined to: it ask its Public Buildings Working Group to consider the matter in more detail and report to its meeting of 13 October.
 - b) The Group has explored the Options at its meetings of 24 September and 7 October.
 - c) Early indications from IWALC are that not enough Town and Parish Councils are willing to support the proposed Island wide option for continuing the funding of the existing contract to ensure its continuation at the current specification.
 - d) The only Option that would combine assurance of the current standards or better and local control over them is for the Town Council to take on responsibility for the service.
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- e) Three Members of the Group have visited all the sites and assessed the Grounds Maintenance needs of each.
 - f) Work is in progress to cost such a Town Council provided service on the basis of those assessments.
 - g) The Group discussed the current unacceptable state for the Cascades and agreed that particular attention needed to be given to the attraction to restore it for future years and discussions are in progress around the possibility of Ventnor Botanic Garden undertaking that work with a sponsorship element.

4) RECOMMENDATION

The Public Buildings Working Group unanimously recommends the Town Council to choose Option D and to authorise the Group to continue discussions with Ventnor Botanic Garden about the future management of the Cascades.

Ventnor Area Grounds Maintenance

Description	Quantity	Frequency	Cost £
Bonchurch Triangle			
Amenity grass	833m ²	20	73.97
Hedge Maintenance (hand)	10mr	2occ	16.64
Trees (imm)	3No	var occ	26.10
Trees (mat)	6No	var occ	1.98
TOTAL			118.69
Bonchurch Pond			
Amenity grass	400m ²	20	35.52
Rough grass	556m ²	1	18.52
Hedge Maintenance (hand)	25mr	2occ	41.60
TOTAL			95.64
Cascades			
High Amenity grass	297m ²	29	8.23
Rough grass	311m ²	1	10.36
Edging beds	184mr	35	142.97
Shrubs	414m ²	7occ	972.90
Herbaceous beds	75m ²	7occ	512.25
Bedding	385	Winter	2,140.60
Bedding	385	Summer	5,894.35
Hedge Maintenance (hand)	132mr	2occ	219.65
Paved areas (weed control)	124m ²	1occ	7.44
Ditch/Stream	75	1occ	54.00
TOTAL			9,962.75
Donkey Bank (Bonchurch)			
Amenity grass	75m ²	20	6.66
Rough grass	224m ²	1	7.46
TOTAL			14.12
Eastern Gardens			
High Amenity grass	6281m ²	29	2,267.51
Rough grass	450m ²	1	14.98
Hedge Maintenance (hand)	20mr	2occ	33.28
Paved areas (weed control)	300m ²	1occ	18.00
TOTAL			2,333.77
Flowers Brook			
Amenity grass	5480m ²	20	486.62
Rough grass	2020m ²	1	67.27
Trees (mat)	5No	var occ	1.65
Paved areas (weed control)	350m ²	1occ	21.00
Ditch/Stream	100mr	1occ	72.00
TOTAL			648.54
Haven Bush			
Amenity grass	2394m ²	20	212.59
Paved areas (weed control)	277m ²	1occ	16.62
TOTAL			229.21

Judds Walk			
High Amenity grass	196m ²	29	157.68
Rough grass	1500m ²	9	49.95
Shrubs	76m ²	7occ	178.60
Hedge Maintenance (hand)	175mr	2occ	291.20
Paved areas (weed control)	277m ²	1occ	16.62
TOTAL			694.05
Kings Bay Road Car Park			
Amenity grass	1580m ²	20	140.30
TOTAL			140.30
Lowtherville Estate			
Amenity grass	1156m ²	20	102.65
Rough grass	3154m ²	9	787.55
Hedge Maintenance (flail)	100mr	1occ	35.50
TOTAL			925.70
Market Street Toilets			
Hedge Maintenance (hand)	6mr	2occ	9.98
Shrubs	100m ²	7occ	235.00
TOTAL			244.98
North Street Playground			
Amenity grass	38m ²	20	3.37
Shrubs	56m ²	7occ	131.60
Trees (mat)	4No	var occ	1.32
Litter bin	1No	Weekly	354.21
Paved areas (weed control)	505m ²	1occ	30.30
TOTAL			520.80
Ocean View Road			
Amenity grass	428m ²	20	38.00
Rough grass	106m ²	1	3.53
Trees (mat)	2No	var occ	0.66
Paved areas (weed control)	38m ²	1occ	2.28
TOTAL			44.47
Salisbury Gardens			
High Amenity grass	1055m ²	29	848.75
Rough grass	710m ²	1	23.64
Shrubs	20m ²	7occ	47.00
Litter bin	1No	Weekly	484.70
Paved areas (weed control)	658m ²	1occ	39.48
TOTAL			1,443.57
Shore Road Car Park			
Amenity grass	1355m ²	20	120.32
Rough grass	75m ²	1	2.50
Edging beds	20mr	35	15.54
Shrubs	18m ²	7occ	42.30
Hedge Maintenance (hand)	20mr	2occ	33.28
Trees (imm)	3No	var occ	26.10
Litter bin	1No	Weekly	354.21
TOTAL			594.25

Smugglers' Haven			
Amenity grass	5079m ²	20	451.01
Rough grass	640m ²	1	21.31
Edging beds	124mr	35	96.35
Hedge Maintenance (hand)	246mr	2occ	409.34
Trees (imm)	10No	var occ	87.00
Trees (mat)	20No	var occ	6.60
Paved areas (weed control)	300m ²	1occ	18.00
TOTAL			1,089.61
Steephill Down Road			
Amenity grass	275m ²	20	24.42
Shrubs	46m ²	7occ	108.10
Hedge Maintenance (hand)	10mr	2occ	16.64
Paved areas (weed control)	24m ²	1occ	1.44
TOTAL			150.60
St Boniface Gardens			
Amenity grass	720m ²	20	63.94
Hedge Maintenance (hand)	10mr	2occ	16.64
Trees (mat)	8No	var occ	2.64
TOTAL			83.22
Victoria Corner			
Shrubs	13m ²	7occ	30.55
Roses	11m ²	7occ	51.26
Paved areas (weed control)	80m ²	1occ	4.80
TOTAL			86.61
Westcliffs			
Amenity grass	8035m ²	20	713.51
Rough grass	4098m ²	1	136.46
Rough grass	350m ²	9	87.39
Paved areas (weed control)	927m ²	1occ	55.62
TOTAL			992.98

Summary

Bonchurch Triangle	119
Bonchurch Pond	96
Cascades	9,963
Donkey Bank (Bonchurch)	14
Eastern Gardens	2,334
Flowers Brook	649
Haven Bush	229
Judds Walk	694
Kings Bay Road Car Park	140
Lowtherville Estate	926
Market Street Toilets	245
North Street Playground	521
Ocean View Road	44
Salisbury Gardens	1,444
Shore Road Car Park	594
Smugglers' Haven	1,090
Steephill Down Road	151
St Boniface Gardens	83
Victoria Corner	87
Westcliffs	993
TOTAL	20,386

Name of town/parish council

Ventnor Town Council

Grounds maintenance (Please mark your choice with an 'X' and include percentage under Option C)						
Area	Current cost £	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E
		Fund the following elements in the new IWC grounds maintenance contract at current specification	Fund the following elements in the new IWC grounds maintenance contract at a reduced specification	Make a contribution to the cost of the following elements in the new IWC grounds maintenance contract - please mark with a %	Maintain the following areas through the town/parish councils' own contractor	Not make any contribution to the new grounds maintenance contract or carry out maintenance of the following areas
St Boniface Gardens	85.00					
Donkey Bank Bonchurch	15.00					
Bonchurch Triangle	118.00					
Judds Walk	694.00					
Eastern Gardens	2333.00					
Flowerbrook	648.00					
Havensbush	229.00					
Lowtherville	925.00					
Hamborough Road/Shore Hill/Cascades	9962.00					
Ocean View Road	44.00					
Salisbury Gardens	1443.00					
Smugglers Haven	1089.00					
Steephill Down Road	150.00					
West Cliffs	992.00					
Kings Bay Car Park	140.00					
Victoria Corner	86.00					
Shore Road	594.00					
North Street play area	520.00					