

Mountain Bike Track Progress Report

This project has progressed significantly since the last meeting the two main areas are:

The Tender process:

Tender documents were sent out to four companies highlighted by the Parks Department as capable of fulfilling the Council's needs. The tender documents laid out what was involved in the project and broke the works down into two phases to enable the Council to fund the project over two financial years if the tender price exceeded the grants acquired by the Parish Council to cover the cost. Each phase was allocated a contingency figure amounting to £5300 for both to cover any unforeseen expenses.

All four companies submitted a tender with the tenders varying from £42118.00 to £51529.00 including contingencies. A meeting was arranged with Alan Binns and Kevin Singleton of the Parks Department to discuss the Tenders. At the meeting it was decided that their preferred option was the lowest tender as the company had worked for Pendle regularly in the past and they were happy with the quality of work. The Clerk rang the preferred company and explained that they had been awarded the contract subject to planning permission and start/completion date for phase one. The agreed start date is the 25th February 2008 with the completion of phase one by Good Friday with phase two to follow concurrently.

Planning Permission:

Pendle Borough Council received one objection from a member of the public during the relevant period and the planning application was dealt with under the delegation scheme being signed off on the 1st of February 2008. The permission contains 6 conditions, three of which have to be met prior to the commencement of commencement of work and one where further details have to be submitted one week after the commencement of groundwork's.

- Ecological Survey for Protected Species and Habitat: The Clerk has contacted the Wildlife Trust and engaged their services to carry out a survey.
- A Survey for Bats: The Clerk has engaged the services of a licensed Bat Expert recommended by Rosemary Pritchard at the Environmental Directorate at County Council.
- Scheme for the removal of Japanese Knotweed: the Clerk after consultation with both an officer at the Environment Agency and the Parks has wrote a scheme to eradicate this invasive weed over the next five years.
- After discussion with the contractor these items will be ready to submit by the due date.

The Clerk met both the wildlife and bat expert on site and after a brief tour and discussion engaged both parties to carry out the necessary work. Both experts

undertook their initial assessments yesterday and the Clerk hopes to have the reports back by early next week. The Clerk hopes to arrange a meeting with the planning officer as soon as possible to submit reports schemes etc. and hopefully begin construction on time.

Trials Area:

This area was added at the request of local teenage enthusiasts and a group will be visiting the office Saturday to discuss obstacle design. All comments will be taken on board and where feasible incorporated into the design of this area of the scheme.