

St Paul Malmesbury Without Parish Council

Report #11.3

Renewal of Cowbridge Permissive Path Vegetation Clearance Contract

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To invite the council to award a 2-year contract for the twice yearly clearance of vegetation along the Cowbridge permissive path.

2. Background

- 2.1 The council had a 3m wide year-round hard surface installed along the permissive section of the Cowbridge footpath in 2022. The vegetation either side of the 3m wide path grows strongly during the spring and summer months and, from experience, it has been found beneficial to have it cut back twice a year in May and September to prevent it spreading onto the path.
- 2.2 Previously the council has agreed to a 2-year contract for this work. It is proposed to continue with this 2-year arrangement.
- 2.3 The present contractor has recently proved unreliable to the extent that another company had to be called in at short notice to undertake the September clearance. Failure to undertake this work to the agreed schedule attracts criticism from residents using this safe walking route into Malmesbury.

3. Options

- 3.1 Not to award a vegetation clearance contract.
- 3.2 To select a contractor from the two companies identified in the appendix.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The council has/will make financial provision for this service in its budgets for the next two years.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 The council is recommended to support Option 3.2.

Cllr David Briggs
On behalf of the Project WP
16.11.2023