

CONTRIBUTION TOWARD UNDERGROUND CABLING

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report apprises Members of the responses received in respect of requests for financial assistance towards the cost of underground cabling.

2 PROGRESS

- 2.1 Letters were sent to Hullbridge Parish Council and the forecourt owners in the Phase 2 project, asking if they would be prepared to fund the cost of underground cabling.

- 2.2 Hullbridge Parish Council has responded as follows:-

“It was agreed a sum of £20,000 will be contributed, only on the clear understanding that the funds are to be used for this particular item only of the project and providing acceptable contractual arrangements are made and the area in question is clearly defined.”

- 2.3 At the time of drafting the report, four responses had been received from forecourt owners, three declining to contribute and one offering £100.

3 ISSUES EMANATING FROM RESPONSE

- 3.1 The outline cost of the scheme suggested at the previous meeting was £30,000. Should this eventually be the true estimate, then the Council would be in the position of having to increase the Hullbridge budget by a further £10,000. Indicative costs for the rest of the scheme are already in excess of the budget provision if Members' aspirations are to be fully realised.
- 3.2 The Parish Council concerns in respect of the contractual arrangements are noted. The contract will, however, be Contract 2000, and, as Members well know, the estimates cannot be guaranteed. If the Council were to accept the conditions set out by the Parish, then any overspend would have to be met by the District Council.

4 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Sub-Committee **RESOLVES** whether or not to carry out further work on this project. (CD(F&ES))

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Background Papers:

None.

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