

PROJECT STUTTON GREENWAY

Addendum to report of the 12th February 2024 on final costings.

The contractor Hugh Pearl Land Drainage Ltd quoted initially £17,813 which led in my report to a total cost to the Parish Council of £19,029. The company based their quote on their view that for much of the route, timber edging was not absolutely necessary. We are aware that the company knew the monies available to Stutton Parish Council were limited and that the Council was seeking to keep costs as low as possible. However, we (myself and Oliver Wastell) held the view that because the level of the pathway is higher than the level of the field then timber edging on the field side will make the resulting surface more stable, less likely to subside and consequently extend its life. We felt that to skimp at the construction stage to reduce costs would prove to be a mistake in the long term and we asked the company to re-quote.

A further site meeting took place and Hugh Pearl's revised their quote to £23,838. This represents timber edging along the whole of the field side, at both ends where the path drops down to the road and other areas if during construction it is found to be required. The company, Oliver Wastell and myself all now agree that this will successfully complete the project without compromising the quality of the finished product.

However, in a very positive development, Suffolk County Council (SCC) have also agreed that Stutton Parish Council will only be required to pay £22,000 of the construction costs. The remaining £1,838 will be paid by them. SCC have also agreed that they will now meet the £400 cost of footpath closure and they will not be charging the £400 Officer Time. (SCC state this will not be the case going forward with regard to other SCC/Parish collaborative projects)

All of this means the revised costs to Stutton Parish Council for the project are:

Item	Amount	Note
Construction	22.000	Maximum amount (No VAT charged) SCC pay remaining £1,838
Officer time	Nil	£400 fee not charged by SCC
Footpath closure	Nil	£400 fee not charged by SCC
Signs	416	Accurate, will reduce by £83 if and when VAT is reclaimed
TOTAL	£22,416	

These latest developments are in my view really positive. Although the sum required by the Parish Council has increased, the quality of the final product should be considerably improved and the final amount is under the sum we have previously ear-marked for the project.

Mike Hems
Councillor

12th February 2024