

# **St Dogmaels Community Council Cutting Contract Progress to Date and Proposals for 2023-24 (including PCC contract areas)**

1. Progress to date (as of September 2022)
2. Recommendation/Proposal for change to the 2023-24 CC Contract
3. Recommendation/Proposal for the 2023 Request to PCC.

## **1. Progress to Date**

We are nearing completion of the second year where the CC agreed additional works to include Health & Safety issues identified and to run a 3 year Biodiversity pilot.

### **Bio diversity Pilot**

The Original Pilot was on numerous sites both on CC and PCC land and one small area of unregistered land (Penally Mound).

Due to unknown intervention and spraying of weed killer the pilot ceased on the area of unregistered land (Penally Mound) in the Summer of 2021, and therefore CC took the decision to stop further investment. The mound has since been landscaped by local residents.

The two areas on the Maes Hyfred estate included in the pilot were withdrawn mid-summer 2021, following complaints to PCC. Some residents were of the opinion that the areas were becoming overgrown and untidy and therefore it was agreed to halt further trials. There may be scope in the future to include these areas in a future pilot scheme but more engagement with local residents will be needed. It is also possible that PCC may change their policy on cutting times for amenity land going forward.

Other sites included in the bio diversity pilot have generally been successful, although as expected this success has been varied. Some areas have clearly benefitted with an increase and spread of beneficial wild pollinating plants, although it is noted that due to underlying conditions one site in particular has shown limited improvements (Map 9k Pinog Lime Kiln Wild area). This site is partly flooded during higher tides which limits the type of plant able to survive and colonise.

Residents continue to show interest in the pilot and have reported an increase of pollinating insects this year. Monitoring has been limited this year for unplanned reasons but will resume for the final year so a complete assessment can be made.

### **Health and Safety**

The additional H&S works had previously been carried out on an 'as necessary' basis or an Ad Hoc basis by volunteers. From 2021 it was agreed that it would be sensible to include these items into the main contract to ensure a) the necessary work was guaranteed to be carried out, b) a more accurate costing forecast would be available. It was noted that with an ageing population it was becoming increasingly harder to find volunteers and relying on this for known works was not sustainable in the long term.

The H&S improvements identified crossed both CC sites and those under PCC responsibility.

There has been a marked improvement in the reduction of slip/trip hazards on paths and less water over run where this was a problem. There has already been a noticeable improvement regarding erosion on the banks above the car park to the Pinog disabled access path, where the reduced cutting schedule has allowed plants to re colonise the banks and this is now stabilising the bank, and plants continue to repopulate the bank. So it should also be noted that some of the H&S work also had a biodiversity improvement impact as a by-product.

**Overall feedback has been positive from people using the paths and a definite safety improvement is apparent.**

## **2. Recommendation/Proposal for change to 2023-24 CC Contract**

- Reduce the two fixed cuts of the Y felin Mill pond path to one fixed cut, with the second cut being on an as needed basis ( our lease incorporates maintenance of the path)
- Incorporate clearing of the drainage gullies and drains in the vicinity of Bumblebee Cottage (Alexandra Gardens) into the CC contract. I recommend 3 scheduled on as needed basis. This will allow inclusion in the overall quote.

## **3. Recommendation/Proposals for the 2023 PCC Request**

- No Change from the 2022 request.
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**Thanks to our County Cllr. Mike James for liaising with PCC Officers on our behalf and to the PCC teams that have carried out the work requested. Also to our Contractor Mr E Brown who has worked closely with me on the bio diversity pilot areas.**

*M Kendall 21/9/2022*