

HARTLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Date	1 August 2017
Agenda Item No	12(2)
Title	Hartlebury Community Project: Ecology Survey Additional Expenditure
B a c k g r o u n d	<p>As part of the agreed expenditure for the Hartlebury Community Project, Council agreed to spend £475 exc VAT on an Ecology Survey, required in relation to the possible demolition of the "tennis pavilion". This survey has now been carried out:</p> <p><i>"I can confirm that detailed bat surveys will be required for the tennis court building and old oak tree (south of play area). No evidence of bats were found inside the tennis court building but there were bat droppings (fresh) on and underneath the bargeboard on the southwest corner of the building, along with a gap between the bargeboard and wall which was clear of cobwebs - suggesting recent or current use by bats. The old oak tree also contains a number of features that offer suitable roost opportunities for bats.</i></p> <p><i>Therefore I recommend that the following surveys are undertaken. These surveys are required to determine bat presence / absence within the tennis court building and oak tree, and to determine which species of bat is using the building, how many and what type of roost it is. All this information will be required to inform a European Protected Species Mitigation Licence application to Natural England. Once we have determined bat presence/absence and are certain a mitigation licence is needed, the licence will be required to ensure that the destruction of the bat roost (tennis court building and oak tree - if present) can go ahead without the breach of legislation. Although I cannot say for definite yet, I do suspect that we may be able to mitigate the loss of the roost within the building through the use of bat boxes - we will know more once the surveys have been carried out.</i></p> <p><i>I recommend a dusk emergence survey is carried out in the first instance. Based on the level of bat activity across the site and whether bats are seen emerging from the building or tree, I will then be able to advise whether further surveys are needed. I always aim to carry out only those surveys which are absolutely necessary and do appreciate that you have a budget to work within. As such I have also included the cost of eDNA analysis of the bat droppings on the building as one option of gaining the required information while reducing overall costs.</i></p> <p><i>Dusk emergence dawn re-entry surveys: Cost per survey visit (for two surveyors) is £260. A minimum of one visit will be required, with a maximum of three.</i></p> <p><i>Bat dropping eDNA analysis: £215 (includes cost of analysis kit, courier costs and lab analysis).</i></p> <p><i>Additional reporting: £180 - if bat survey results are included within Preliminary Ecological Appraisal report (as quoted April 2017). If you require a separate bat survey report then the report costs will be £225.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Dr Fiona Sharpe MCIEM Consultant Ecologist</p>
C o n s i d e r a t i o n s	<p>The first consideration is whether the possibility of demolishing the pavilion is still a valid proposition or whether it should remain and be upgraded/converted for other use.</p> <p>Council should also consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 This building has been a cause of concern for some time 2 There is no drainage to the building 3 Local residents have reported that children/adolescents climb on the roof: It is a potential health and safety hazard 4 What alternative use could the building be put to? A suggestion has been made that it could become a Parish Council office. 5 At the Steering Group meeting it was agreed that the building should be demolished - despite the additional cost for the ecology survey 6 The cost of a change of use could exceed the cost of additional ecology survey 7 The Parish Council may not want to maintain a responsibility for the building
P r o p o s a l	<p>That the additional expenditure of up to £1,175.00 exc VAT for the Ecology Survey is approved.</p>
Risk	Low
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Date	21 July 2017