

Parish Lengthsman Report for October 2025

Proposal:

Appoint a contractor to provide lengthsman services to Sandford Parish.

Background:

Over the last couple of years there has been significant flooding in the parish which has restricted access in and around the parish and caused considerable damage to vehicles and property.

Grass cutting in the parish is carried out by parish funded contractor and MDDC. There are gaps in the required provision.

Di Martin has co-ordinated weeding gangs to keep the village clear of weeds. This activity is supported twice per year by SPC - it is an ongoing battle to keep up.

Drainage and road repairs are provided by DCC, but they are often superficial - we have several broken road drains which no amount of jetting will improve the situation

We have a recently updated resilience plan which highlights the areas of risk and provides information on how to cope in a crisis.

DCC Road Warden scheme, for which we have people volunteering but no capacity to support.

Several Parish owned assets that need regular maintenance.

Road hedge cutting???

The Detail:

Offer a contract of service, nominally £100 per month, with funding to co-ordinate a response to specific projects and works relating to the role of lengthsman:

- Road warden scheme
- Works identified in the resilience plan
- Road signs maintenance and cleaning
- Specific Project work - e.g. Road drainage / Britain in Bloom
- DCC Liaison

The role would also have a project budget of £2000.

It is envisaged that some of the works would be carried out by the contractor, but other works would need co-ordination of voluntary organisations in the village and volunteers. We could also seek partnership opportunities to work with DCC / MDDC.

Footnote:

Given the steps towards Local Government Reorganisation this role could help us identify council responsibilities.