

Lengthsman and P3 Schemes

2019/2020

The role played by the parish councils in relation to maintaining the public realm (highways and open spaces) and Public Rights Of Way (PROW) network is valuable and we are committed to continuing to support parishes who recognise the benefits of the scheme many funding themselves through their precept with 95 parishes doing so in 2018/19.

Parish and Town Councils have always had a strong interest in public realm matters including highway maintenance and it is recognised that through working with Parishes an opportunity exists to improve local responsiveness, provide added value to the core services and improve the environment within the local communities. The condition of local roads, footpaths and open spaces affects the whole community and contributes to the quality of the local environment.

- Strengthen **community leadership** by allowing Parish Councils to take ownership of the delegated budgets and management of works under the guidance of Balfour Beatty Living Places.
- **Enabling communities** to have a higher degree of self-reliance through the personalisation of the Lengthsman Scheme and P3 in each parish.
- Ensuring **value for money** by working with the Lengthsman and Parish Councils to integrate works maximising productivity.
- **Improvement in the public realm** by allowing Parish Councils to invest in and prioritise works that meet the needs of their communities to improve the local economy, health & leisure opportunities

The full activities and benefits are highlighted overleaf.

Interested in participating in 2019/2020?

Any parish wishing to undertake any works on the highway, public realm or public right of way will require a contract in place. This provides the permission from Herefordshire Council as the Highways Authority to allow parishes to work on the agreed roads as well as the scope and specification required. Therefore providing protection for the parish and ensuring lengthsman operate safely. Advice and guidance can be provided to ensure parishes appoint lengthsman that are competent and appropriate qualified for the activities required.

The schemes are open to any parish to join from the 1st April 2019 and if you are interested please complete the enclosed expressions of interest and return to xx.

If you have any queries or would like further information on either of the schemes please contact Balfour Beatty Living places on 01432 261800 or email us on

Herefordshireparishes@bblivingplaces.com

Lengthsman scheme

The Parish Lengthsman scheme allows delegation to Parish Councils for minor works on local roads. Parishes are able to use their precepts to employ a local contractor familiar with the area.

Activities that can be undertaken on agreed roads:

- Drainage - ditching, gully, grips, rodding, culverts.
- Signs (unlit) - cleaning, repairing etc
- Highway minor works – removal of detritus, debris, cutting back vegetation etc
- Pothole filling of minor cat 2b
- Verge Cutting and strimming
- Environmental – sweeping, graffiti, street furniture etc
- Community – general upkeep and assist in emergency eg hand gritting
- Agreed tasks for the benefit of the parish

Parish paths partnership (P3)

The P3 scheme enables Parish Councils to take responsibility for maintaining and improving public rights of way in their parish and to promote greater use of the local paths network

Activities that can be undertaken:

- Cutting back vegetation and strimming
- Minor repairs to gates, stile, cross steps, ditch crossings
- Sign posts, marker post and way markers
- Replacing authorised stiles with accessible gates and improvement schemes
- Promotion of local walks

Benefits of being in the schemes

- Parishes can prioritise local highway maintenance activities which would not otherwise be completed or complete within quicker timescales
- Residents can see their concerns being dealt with quickly
- Minor issues are dealt with locally, enabling the Highways Authority to focus its resources on more strategic maintenance issues.
- Improvements made that target community interest eg footpaths that are regularly used.
- Recurring minor issues are dealt with more efficiently.
- Utilisation of volunteers to assist with PROW clearance
- Promotes relations in the local community (landowners/residents/local Councils).
- Support, advice and guidance from Locality Steward to help maximise the value of parish works
- Assistance with procurement of equipment and materials or access to stores.