

Report: Laverstock & Ford Parish Council

Subject: Appointment of Contractor, Whitebridge Boardwalk Viewing Platform

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1. Report Summary

A report to councillors regarding the award of a contract to repair the viewing platform at the ephemeral pond, Whitebridge Boardwalk.

2. Background

The Whitebridge Boardwalk is constructed predominantly from composite material. The section of the boardwalk at the ephemeral pond, however, is constructed of oak boards with an oak timber viewing platform. Following routine inspections by inhouse staff, sections of the oak timber were found to be rotten and posing a hazard to health. In spite of attempts to cordon off the platform, people continue to gain access to the area.

3. Summary

Given the risk to users of that section of the boardwalk and the proximity to water, three companies with experience of this type of construction were emailed and invited to attend, to make an assessment with recommendations and quotes for any necessary works.

Of the three companies, two responded to the email and of those two, only one company actually visited the site as requested. A representative of G Farwell Ltd attended and subsequently provided a scope of works and a quote for repairs to the boardwalk viewing platform. The scope of works includes the following,

1. Remove and replace viewing platform with new composite to match existing boardwalk

1. Mobilise plant and equipment to site
2. Strip out old boardwalk and remove for disposal
3. Drive in new Oak support posts
4. Build supporting framework from composite material
5. Fit deck boards to framework
6. Build handrail to match existing height
7. Remove and replace the section of timber boardwalk between the existing composite boardwalk and the viewing platform (Approx. 4m)
8. Fit trim around edges to match existing

The quoted cost for the above works is

£ 11,121.11+ Vat

4. Conclusions

The condition of the oak timber presents a hazard and, given the proximity to water the risk to users is escalated requiring early intervention.

5. Recommendations

It is recommended that

1. The viewing platform is repaired as stated in the scope of work above.
2. That the Parish Council resolves to appoint G Farwell Ltd to conduct the repair work at Whitebridge Boardwalk for the sum of £11,121.11+ Vat as per their quote dated 13th February 2024.