



Buckinghamshire County Council

Report

Cabinet Member for
Community Services

Date: 9 May 2001 **Decision to be taken
on or after:**
15 May 2001

Title: Restoration of George Green
Gates, Langley Park – Proposed
exception to Standing Orders **CM Decision No:**
CS 8/01

Author Head of Spatial Planning

**Electoral Divisions
Affected** Fulmer, Wexham & Iver Heath

Summary

George Green Gates are at one of the original entrances to Langley Park. They are in poor condition. It is proposed to employ Dorothea Restorations Ltd to restore them. Dorothea specialises in architectural restoration. They have successfully completed previous commissions of a similar nature for the County Council. They have surveyed the gates and put forward an estimated cost of £35,000 for the restoration. A grant of £32,000 has been awarded from the Onyx Environmental Trust towards this cost. As the proposed work has not been subject to competitive tender, employing Dorothea as outlined would be an exception to Standing Orders. Approval for the proposal is hereby sought.

Recommendation

That the County Council employ Dorothea Restorations Ltd to restore the George Green Gates at Langley Park at a contract value of £35,000, this contract being an exception to Standing Orders on the grounds of the specialist nature of this work and Dorothea Restoration Ltd's proven record of delivering work of this nature to a high standard and at a reasonable cost.

1. Introduction

1.1. The George Green Gates are one of the original formal entrances to Langley Park. They comprise a pair of ornate wrought iron carriage gates with pedestrian side gates, each hung from a stone pier, with curved iron railings set on dwarf brick walls extending either side. The precise date of their

construction is not known although their design and method of construction suggest they date at least from the mid-nineteenth century.

- 1.2. Whilst basically intact, the entire structure is in a generally poor state of repair. The main carriage gates have been removed from the site to storage for safety reasons. A specialist architectural restoration company, Dorothea Restorations Ltd, has surveyed the gates and produced a specification and schedule for their restoration. Dorothea's cost estimate for this work is £35,000. (A copy of Dorothea's report can be made available upon request.)
- 1.3. Listed building consent for the works has been received from South Bucks District Council. Subject to the decision over the subject of this report, an order for the works to commence could be issued. The works would take approximately 3 months to complete, allowing time for specialist stone procurement and all site works.
- 1.4. The local member for Fulmer, Wexham & Iver Heath is keen that these works proceed at the earliest opportunity.

2. Resource Implications

- 2.1. A grant of £32,000 has been awarded to the County Council by the Onyx Environmental Trust for the restoration of the gates. The balance of £3,000 towards the cost of restoration and fees to oversee the works, obtain consents, etc (estimated at £2,000) will be met from within existing County Council revenue budgets approved for this type of work. In addition, the tenant in the residence adjacent to the gates is obliged to contribute a proportion towards the maintenance of the gates. Negotiations are currently underway to agree this amount.

3. Proposal to employ Dorothea Restorations Ltd – exception to Standing Orders

- 3.1. It is proposed subject to approval to employ Dorothea Restorations Ltd to implement the restoration works detailed in their report. As this work has not been subjected to competitive tender, this would be an exception to Standing Orders. The grounds for employing Dorothea are as follows.
- 3.2. Dorothea Restorations Ltd is a renowned company that specialises in restoration work of this kind, particularly in the restoration of architectural metal work. They have a proven record of satisfactory projects with a range of clients nationally, including English Heritage, the National Trust and the Royal Historic Palaces. The work involves various specialist trades (ironmongers, stonemasons, etc) and Dorothea provide all these trades without the need to use sub-contractors.
- 3.3. The specification and schedule in their report are in accordance with good architectural conservation practice. Their cost estimates are deemed to be reasonable according to the special requirements of this type of work.

3.4. The company has a satisfactory record of completing works of a similar nature for Buckinghamshire County Council. Details are as follows.

- 1992 Denham Court Footbridge
Repair and re-erection of 20m span wrought iron bridge.
Value £30,000 (approximate).
- 1996 Warren Bridge, Missenden Abbey Parkland
Dismantling, full repair and re-erection of historic wrought iron footbridge.
Note: This work received the Chilterns AONB Planning and Design Award in 1999.
Value £27,000
- 1997 Langley Park, Main Gates and Fences
Dismantling, and re-erecting the ornamental gates in a new position (for highway safety reasons).
Value £25,800

Decision Taken:

Signed: _____ (General Manager/Head of Service)

in consultation with

_____ (Cabinet Member)

Date:

Background Papers

Dorothea Restorations Ltd. 1999. Report on the George Green Entrance Gates, Langley Park, Wexham, Buckinghamshire

Representations

Any representations regarding this proposed decision should be made to Head of Cabinet Support by 5.00 p.m. on Monday, 14 May 2001. This can be done by telephone (to 01296 382966), Fax (to 01296 383441), or e-mail to cabinet@buckscc.gov.uk

For further information please contact: Phil Bowsher on 01296 382389