
From: James, Anne
Sent: 24 October 2012 10:14
To: JOHN ELFES
Cc: Taylor, Joanne
Subject: RE: Volunteers and Ringway Jacobs

John, I have been going through my admin and noticed that I have not got back to you on this one. I apologise for that.

I will try and explain the relationship between the County Council and Ringway Jacobs and the relationship with volunteers

The County Council is charged with making significant cost savings and as part of that it looked at the cost of delivering the whole transportation function. Since the mid 1990s the highway maintenance and the scheme designs had been contracted out separately while the County retained its in-house function. All three organisations had their individual hierarchy and managers. It was decided to combine this into one operational function and that this would be tendered in the open market.

In effect Ringway Jacobs has the contract for managing all the Transportation functions on behalf of the County Council. This is managed on a fixed fee basis so they do not make profit on work being done. The overall saving to the Council has been significant. The Council decides its budget allocation through its normal Member process. The TfB Alliance developed business plans identifying what the County Council will get for their budget allocations. This is formally agreed and forms the basis of the work that is undertaken in the following year. We are currently business planning for 2013/14.

As part of a separate County Council reorganisation last year Rights of Way were transferred into the Ringway Jacobs Alliance and they are now managed as part of my area of the Service. Their budget is the same as previous and they operate in the same way as before. The use of volunteers continues to be essential to the Team as it does not have the budget to carry out all the works on the right of way network that they would like.

Ringway Jacobs do not benefit in any way from this arrangement other than to enable it to deliver the programme of work as agreed by BCC as the Client.

I hope this explains the position satisfactorily

Regards

Anne James
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From: JOHN ELFES
Sent: Wednesday 29 August 2012 10:50
To: James, Anne
Subject: Volunteers and Ringway Jacobs

29th August 2012

From the Chairman of the Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum

The Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum is the Statutory Advisory Body for all matters relating to Access to the Countryside

Dear Anne,

At the March meeting of the Forum you explained the new relationship between the Rights of Way group and your contractor, Ringway Jacobs. In the ensuing discussion, some forum members questioned the propriety of volunteer effort being used to help deliver a commercial contract, and since then the question has also been raised by individual volunteers. You said that this problem was recognised and was addressed through the business planning process, and I would now ask you to explain in detail how this is to be achieved, and what safeguards are in place to ensure that volunteer effort is not supporting the profits of a commercial concern.

Yours Sincerely,

John Elfes.