

REPORT TO PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL

7th March 2017

AGENDA ITEM 8.5 – Request for funding contribution to Mid Cheshire Against HS2

1 Background

- 1.1 Council deferred consideration of this item at its meeting on 7th February pending the HS2 Update event held at the Village Hall on 16th February. Your Clerk reported this to the group, referring to some of the questions raised at your meeting. A response has been received, as follows:

With regard to the points you have made.

Since Mid Cheshire Against HS2 was formed in March 2013 following the January 2013 HS2 Phase 2 route announcement, we have raised approximately £18,400. Approximately a third of this has been raised by holding fundraising events, the other two thirds having been raised mainly via donations specifically to pay for two geological 'Ground Survey' reports that we commissioned at a total cost of over £13,200. We think it will be necessary to commission a specialist 'Noise Survey' report at some stage in the future. We have no idea of the cost of this at the moment, however a sensible budget figure would be £6,000. As well as this we expect that we will need to spend more money on printing than we have so far, this figure will be quite substantial. At the moment we are trying to raise £4,488 for the second of the two 'Ground Survey' reports, we are not quite there yet and we have pay the invoice by the 25th March, hence our 'cash call' to all HS2 affected Parish Councils. So far donations from Parish Councils and private donors have been between £60 and £2,000 and therefore any donation from Pickmere Parish Council, will be very, very welcome. We have tried through One Voice Against HS2 (John Keleher) to include Pickmere in everything we have done, such as the flyers that are being distributed with the Pickmere Press this month. With regard to the question of the parish council's control over how the money is spent. All I can say really, is that, I can assure you that any money donated will not be wasted, the Management Committee of Mid Cheshire Against HS2 always discuss and agree all expenditure. Depending on the size of the donation from Pickmere Parish Council, initially it will be used to help to pay for the second of the two 'Ground Survey' reports, after that the 'Noise Survey' report and printing of flyers, literature, banners & placards, as well as any other items, that for whatever reason become necessary.

If Pickmere Parish Council would like copies of the two 'Ground Survey' reports, these will be forwarded on receipt of your donation, the only thing we ask is that they are restricted to internal/parish council use and are not put into the public domain.

For Council's information, it is allowed, under s137 of the 1972 Local Government Act, as amended, for a Parish Council to incur expenditure which in its opinion is in the

Jack Steel
Clerk to Parish Council

interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, their area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants.

The limit of expenditure that may be so incurred in total under this section in any financial year is set in the Act as the population of the parish multiplied by a figure set by Government (on an index-linked basis), which for 2016-7 is £7.42. The population of the Parish in 2011 was 767 and therefore the annual limit under this section of the Act for Pickmere is in excess of £5500 p.a.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That Council consider the content of the email and decide what action to take in respect of its contents.