

REPORT OF BUILDING PROJECTS OFFICER

SUBJECT: COASTAL TOURISM AND GREEN SEAS PROJECTS UPDATE

Purpose of Report

This is a report to keep members informed about the progress of the three enhancement projects for National Park Authority sites funded with European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) through Visit Wales under the Centres of Excellence and Green Seas Grant Schemes, which are locally administered by PCC.

Introduction/Background

COASTAL TOURISM PROJECTS

Solva Car Park Enhancement Scheme:

- Resurfacing of car park and overflow car park
- Relocation of store shed to improve car park entrance
- Path enhancement and boundary treatment

Porthgain Enhancement Scheme:

- Road surfacing and improved street lighting so that the roads can be formally adopted by PCC
- Harbour approaches enhancement
- Village enhancement

The two projects are currently running as a single contract. Works at Solva Car Park commenced on 27th September, 2012 and works at Porthgain are scheduled to start after the half-term break. Works are programmed to be completed by 21st December 2012 on both sites. The contract has been let to Colin Richardson Contractors of Newport, Monmouthshire.

Progress

The Solva Car Park Project is currently running one week ahead of programme. The Porthgain works commenced on site early November.

Comments

In Solva, consultation is ongoing with the Community Council, Business Group and Fireworks Committee. The stakeholders are updated of progress every two weeks. At Porthgain there have been several meetings with community members concerned about the street lighting proposals. We have tried to adapt the proposals to meet local concerns but additional lighting remains a requirement from PCC Highways Department if they are to agree adoption of the roads when the project is completed.

Financial considerations

The contract value of the Solva and Porthgain Projects is £310,000 with 50% grant funded via PCC under the Visit Wales Coastal Tourism Centres of Excellence Project. This is part of ERDF Funding from the Welsh Government.

GREEN SEAS PROJECT

Poppit Sands Car Park Enhancement Scheme:

- Car Park resurfacing and overflow car park entrance improvements
- Improved access/exit to car park
- Improved access and pick up for bus service.
- Improved pedestrian access to cafe
- New dwell area and interpretation.

Financial considerations

The contract value is £200,000 with 41.61% grant funded via PCC under the Green Seas Fund. This is part of ERDF funding from the Welsh Government. The project is match funded from Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority's capital budget.

Progress

The proposals have been submitted for planning approval (to be considered at December Development Management Committee). Work is scheduled to start mid January 2013 and be completed by Easter 2013.

Comments

Consultation is taking place with Community Council, Cafe Proprietor, RNLI and local residents who are fully supportive of the scheme and have made a positive contribution to the development of the proposals.

Conclusion

These three projects should make a significant impact on key community and visitor facilities, safeguarding important infrastructure for tourism businesses and making more of key sites. Further information can be found on the Visit Wales Project sites at

<http://www.pembrokeshire-coastal-tourism.co.uk/>

and

<http://qa.gs.writemedia.co.uk/locations/poppit-car-park-improvements.aspx>

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the progress of the projects and to raise any questions or concerns.

Background Documents

*(For further information, please contact Andrew Muskett
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Consultees:*