

Item 9 CROWS request for a review of the annual grant

Community Rights of Way Service (CROWS) are extremely grateful to Todmorden Town Council for the provision of an annual grant to assist us with the repairs and maintenance of footpaths and bridleways in the Todmorden area.

CROWS are currently awarded a grant by TTC of up to £1500 per annum. We would like to request your consideration of an increase of our annual grant up to the value of £2250 per annum.

Please find attached a short paper outlining our request. This summarises the funding streams we currently have; the costs associated with our operations; and the suggestions for future work in the Todmorden area.

If you would like us to provide further supporting information please do let me know and I will endeavour to supply the necessary documentation.

With very many thanks from CROWS for the continuing support of Todmorden Town Council

Catherine/ Kasher

Dr Catherine Chathamfor CROWS

TCC Review of Annual Grant to CROWS:

Todmorden Town Council (TTC) currently give the 'Community Rights of Way Service' (CROWS) a grant of up to £1500 per annum. With this grant CROWS have undertaken a significant amount of work on the footpaths and bridleways in the Todmorden area. CROWS are extremely grateful to TTC for the regular awarding of this grant.

The approximate length of Rights of Way in Todmorden is 253 km which includes two major way-marked paths - the Calderdale Way and the Todmorden Centenary Way. We also wish to improve the way-marking of the Fielden Trail, a 20 mile walk around Todmorden that takes in the major features associated with the Fielden family.

CROWS (a fully registered charity) has a dedicated team of approximately 35 volunteers who work throughout the Upper Calder Valley and the Ryburn Valley. The team that covers the Todmorden area runs work parties on Wednesdays and Fridays. Although our main depot is in Mytholmroyd CROWS maintain a store of timber and tools in Todmorden to reduce travelling time. Details of the work undertaken, and the funder, can be found on our Blog. This information is then summarised for local Facebook pages.

CROWS have received funds from Reaps Moss Wind Farm and from Todmorden Wind Farm to undertake specific tasks in the Todmorden area. We have also undertaken work for Active

Calderdale in Cornholme for the improvement to a new Right of Way off Pudsey Road. Funds have been received from events such as the Cornholme Wreath Making workshop, and from local organisations such as Todmorden Harriers for CROWS activities in the Todmorden area. We are also in receipt of generous donations from members of the public, often through 'Just Giving'. Some of CROWS work, including larger construction tasks such as the recent brand new bridge at Ramsden Clough and the boardwalk on the Gadding to Warland path, has been partly paid for by Calderdale Highways.

In previous years we have found that the allocated grant from TTC is fully utilised before the end of the year. All maintenance, repair or replacement work after the grant has been fully utilised is subsidised by individual donations to CROWS.

CROWS has no paid staff - all of its activities are undertaken by volunteers. The majority of the costs associated with CROWS' work is the purchase of timber, usually from CALVAG in Mytholmroyd. All of the construction work e.g. stiles, boardwalks, bridges and gates is done by CROWS volunteers.

For example, the cost of a small pedestrian gate plus two side-posts is approximately £65; the costs of the construction of a 3 m boardwalk is £140; and the costs associated with the construction of a two-step stile is £95.

CROWS have to cover a number of infrastructure costs: e.g. rent, insurance, tool maintenance, tool replacement, first aid kits, stationery, fuel and incidental expenses. To meet these CROWS have fund-raising events but also put a levy on volunteer times and thus we charge out our volunteers at £15 per day.

We would like to undertake a thorough review and a subsequent upgrade of the Todmorden Centenary Way. This would include clearer way-marking, repairs and renewal of appropriate stiles and gates, and the improvement of drainage along sections of this major popular route around Todmorden.

CROWS would be very grateful if Todmorden Town Council could increase the grant allocated to CROWS from a maximum of £1500 per annum to a maximum of £2250 per annum. This would allow us to continue the maintenance and improvement of the extensive footpath and bridleway network in the Todmorden area. Additionally, this would allow us to commence the work on upgrading the Todmorden Centenary Way.

Should you require further details please let us know and we will endeavour to provide

the necessary information.

Catherine /Kasher

Dr Catherine Chatham

for CROWS (Registered Charity 1201645)