

14th June 2005

CVDG

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Rena Tarwinska
District Forester
Forestry Commission Scotland
Bankhead Steadings
Braxfield Road
Lanark
ML11 9BU

Dear Rena

Construction of Mountain Bike Trails in Carron Valley Forest - Phase 1

I trust you had a good holiday.

As you are aware, CVDG recently went out to competitive tender for the above works. Three bids were submitted on the closing date (27th May 2005.) The Group subsequently reviewed all bids on a best value model and appointed WB Grieve Ltd, Aberfeldy as the Main Contractor for the works on 3rd June 2005. The works are now programmed to commence 20th June 2005 with a provisional completion date 15th August 2005.

The successful tender was £56,589.83 (also the lowest bid) including a provisional sum of £2000 for design changes but excluding any contingency and VAT. Design & Site Supervision had already been priced and agreed by CVDG as a separate exercise prior to tender. This service will be provided at a fixed cost of £5000.00 over the 8 week period of the construction programme by: Paul Masson, Cycletherapy, Aviemore.

In summary therefore, our minimum expenditure on Phase 1 of the project will be £59589.83. This figure is just inside the budget amount we indicated would be required and so your additional offer of financial support, along with each of the two councils will be required (my email to you dated 14th April refers.)

I will be pleased to furnish you with copies of all relevant documents for your files.

As you are aware, North Lanarkshire Council are additionally assisting us in this matter particularly in respect of VAT charges. The payment procedures for Main Contractor invoices are quite complicated relative to the requirements of individual Funding Partners. This process would thus be eased if the FC contribution could be worked into the car park works along the lines suggested in my e mail 19th May 2005. I know that you are scheduled to address the car park issue during the course of this week therefore I would be pleased to hear your views as soon as possible.

As you are also aware, CVDG has subsequently been successful in obtaining funding from Leader+. Some of this money may be necessary to underwrite our contingency of £4000 however, we are hoping this will not be necessary. The bulk of the cash has to be spent on 'the new trail' therefore it seems more sensible to enhance the trail we have rather than embark on something new with a comparatively modest sum. Signage and carpark improvements obviously have to be worked into the equation as well. As far as the trails are concerned, this could mean stretching parts of the trail or removing some of the forest road climbs by running singletrack adjacent to / nearby.

As you know, the pre commencement meeting is set for Thursday 16th and Paul Masson will take a look at what might be feasible later that day. It would be our intention to revert back to you immediately thereafter in order that trail building can continue in areas not being worked on by Grieves.

In terms of the medium to long term, we very keen to continue developing a larger coherent trail structure and everything that has been done hitherto has been planned with this in mind. It would be useful if we could meet with you as soon as possible to discuss what can be done in advance of any feasibility study

Trusting the foregoing meets with your approval, we look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

Niall R Thomson

Chairman

CVDG