

130. RESURFACING OF BOTTLE ALLEY

The Borough Secretary reported that at the meeting on 10th August 1987 (Minute 54 refers) the Committee accepted a tender from Martello Plant Ltd. to carry out the re-surfacing of Bottle Alley. The cost was estimated in the Capital Programme (Item T68) at £96,000 but the actual tender sum amounted to £113,270 where a 10% Performance Bond would be required. The Contractors state that in view of the estimate they did not provide for a Bond and if one is now required, the Council will have to pay the cost of providing one.

The Borough Engineer and Surveyor has in the circumstances, certified that a Bond is not necessary in this instance.

RECOMMENDED - That:-

- (i) In this instance a Bond be not required;
- (ii) The Borough Secretary be requested to present a full report on Performance Bonds.

131. STORM DAMAGE

The Director of Tourism and Leisure reported upon the damage caused by the storm on 16th October, 1987, to all property under the Tourism and Leisure Committee's control.

To deal with the emergency, a number of contractors/firms came forward with offers of help, and were allocated work according to their ability. At that time, no consideration was given to establishing either an hourly rate or a price for the job. A number of invoices have now been received for work carried out with the hourly rate from different contractors varying considerably.

It is necessary to continue employing contractors to deal with the tree problem in view of the Parks Section limited reserves of experienced tree surgeons.

Additionally, if certain types of timber, particularly Beech, are not to be wasted, it is important that the time is extracted within the next 2/4 months.

Owing to the areas of devastation involved, it is considered necessary to acquire temporary arboricultural assistance to speed up survey work.

Staff involved in the emergency worked without a break from Friday morning the 16th October through until Friday evening 23rd October.

RECOMMENDED - That:-

- (i) The rate charged by the experienced contractors be used to form a base from which Officers can establish an appropriate rate according to ability and equipment, for other contractors and negotiate payment accordingly;
- (ii) The Officers be authorised to agree a price with both firms of approved tree surgeons to continue tree surgery and with timber merchants to buy/extract timber;

- (iii) Efforts be made to employ a suitably qualified arboriculturalist on Scale 3 (£6,951 - £7,503) plus casual user car allowance, on a temporary basis and that Policy & Finance Committee be requested to grant a supplementary estimate for this expenditure;
- (iv) Standing Order No. 47 be suspended in this emergency situation; Standing Order No. 37 3(e) to apply in this case;
- (v) A letter of thanks be signed by the Chairman and sent to the workforce;
- (vi) During National Tree Week, the Director of Tourism and Leisure be requested to invite donations for tree planting.

### 132. BEACH PERFORMANCES - PETITION

The Director of Tourism and Leisure reported upon the receipt of a petition supported by 40 signatures.

Mr. Meredith spoke on behalf of the petitioners and outlined the proposals for specially written beach performances during the summer of 1988.

His proposals include a 500 seat stadium situated on the beach to the east of the Hastings and St. Leonards Angling Club boat compound south of the go-kart track, which would be on site from June until September. Also needed would be a security fence 6-7 foot high to surround the site, a stage area with specially built frames to house painted flats, a portakabin for changing purposes and a demountable sound system with radio microphones.

Performances with Mr. Meredith's company would take place during July and August only, with performances on Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. The Local Authority would have use of the open air theatre during June and September and during July and August on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Mr. Meredith advised that he already has £5,000 sponsorship in cash guaranteed, but that the total cost of the open air theatre provision and other fees, would be in the region of £10,000 - £12,000 and Mr. Meredith requested the Committee to consider funding the operation by way of providing the balance of £5,000 - £7,000.

The Director of Tourism and Leisure stated that the proposal put forward by Mr. Meredith has merit, but that there are a number of difficulties as far as the location and operation are concerned.

RECOMMENDED - That the Officers be requested to further investigate Mr. Meredith's proposals and report back.