

Apollo Partnership

'a joint review in partnership with Apollo 2000 of the potential for the Council to undertake landscaping work in the company's car park in return for using the car park as a collection and delivery point for Dial a Ride vehicles'

Dial a Ride vehicles drop off/pick up at the Palace Theatre once or maybe twice a month, depending on what is showing. We have an arrangement with the CPE service to allow us to drop off/pick up outside the side doors as most customers have very poor mobility or disabled and need assistance from the driver.

For access to the Town Centre we would use Town Hall car park, Shopmobility or the back of the Post Office. As the Apollo site is further away and due to the reduced mobility of the Dial A Ride Users, there would be no advantage for DaR customers to be dropped off/picked up at this site.. Officers therefore feel that any partnership would have very little benefit to the authority.

Having reviewed the potential workload it would seem to be very onerous on Redditch Borough Council in terms of potential workload and have little or no advantage. The Apollo car park is not secured and is readily accessible to members of the public at any time of the day or night and so the ability of a Dial A Ride vehicle to pull on to the car park area requires no input from Apollo other than gaining any formal agreement that may be deemed appropriate.

In terms of the maintenance Officers would need to consider the site as a whole as the piecemeal approach to maintaining some, as opposed to all of the landscape, would be very difficult to manage effectively.

Officers would therefore need to appreciate that there is an extensive area of peripheral planting that would need to be pruned at least twice per annum. Some of this is adjacent to the ring road and would need the necessary traffic management system to be put in place for the duration of any works.

The shrub/planted areas would require weed treatment which again, if done chemically, would be at least two applications per year. There is also a more formal area of landscape adjacent to the subway which would require the grass to be cut (approximately 12 – 14 times per year) and it is assumed that prior to any such work all litter will need to be removed from the shrub and grass areas. Any materials that cannot be recycled on the site would have to be removed, with RBC being responsible for the necessary tipping fee.

The liability aspect of any work undertaken on the site would also need to be considered as Officers

Officers would effectively be taking on a contractual role and therefore it is normal in such circumstances that any accident or injury resulting from any work or omission carried out by us would mean the Council would be liable for any potential claim.

The work would also have to be programmed in to the Council's system to fit in with other scheduled work. The resources to carry out the additional work would also have to be allowed for as this may have an impact on other programmed tasks that are carried out.

There is also consideration of any public requests, comments or complaints regarding the site as these would need to be recorded by someone and responded to accordingly. Is this something that Apollo would facilitate or would they expect RBC to take this on as the Council would effectively be "managing" the maintenance of the site on their behalf.

Estimated costs can be supplied if necessary to show what our financial liability might be.

Ruth Griffin
Dial a Ride and Shopmobility Manager

Carl Walker
Environmental Services Manager