Thursday, 18 January 2018

**Thetford Town Council is seeking quotations for the conservation management of vegetation on Barnham Cross Common**

**TTC/17/005**

Please find attached a specification for a tender for the maintenance of Barnham Cross Common Thetford.

**Failure to supply any of the information requested in the attached specification will result in the Tender being rejected.**

Contact name and number: Roz Barnett, Amenities Land and Property Officer, 07553 388552 (01842) 754247.

The deadline has been extended and tenders to be received by noon, Friday 2nd of February 2018.

**Tender to be sent in sealed inner envelopes to be clearly marked ‘Tender – Barnham Cross Vegetation management**

**For the Attention of the Town Clerk, Thetford Town Council**

Postal Address: Kings House, King Street, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2AP

Tel: (01842) 754247

Details of the winning contract will be published IAW Local Government Transparency Code 2014.

Should you require further information over and above the tender requirements then please do not hesitate to call.

Yours sincerely

Tina Cunnell BSc (Hons)

Town Clerk

**Barnham Cross Common February 2018 – March 2020**

**Introduction**

Barnham Cross Common is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and is also designated at a European Level for its Woodlark, Nightjar and Stone Curlew and habitats. Conservation works have recently been undertaken under a Higher Level Stewardship scheme as prescribed under the findings of the Brecks Biodiversity Audit 2010. Further works will include removal of scrub and trees, creating soil disturbance and bare ground through rotovation, soil inversion including ploughing of small areas.

‘Brecks’ historically, were cultivated areas of heath that due to very low nutrient levels could only produce crops for a year or two then left fallow to revert to heath and now in its absence we have to create them mechanically. Mixtures of bare ground with closely grazed grasses and other plants are vital to many species of insect such as the exotically named Brush-Thighed Seed Eater and Set-a-side beetles are found in the area with many species of mining wasps, bees and other invertebrates. Barnham Cross Common is claimed to support the richest diversity of ants of any other site within East Anglia.

The Town Council has fenced Barnham Cross common and now has animals grazing the area. The fencing has caused the town council some additional challenges to managing the site as per the Higher Level Stewardship agreement (Appendix 1).

This tender is for the regular maintenance of the Barnham Cross Common site. However before some of the regular maintenance can be undertake some trees and scrub will need to be removed. The town council are working towards creating a 4 metre wide circular route either inside or outside the fence line for ease of maintenance and access for the public. This is a very well used public site so the tree and scrub removal will around this perimeter will need to be phased over the period of the maintenance contract.

We need a contractor who can work flexibly with the town council and our grazier who leases the land undertaking regular maintenance eg litter picking, mowing of paths and strimming of vegetation, flailing of verges at a time that it sensitive to the needs of this site of Special Scientific Interest.

The specifics of the tender are as follows:-

1. **One off maintenance works to be phased over the course of the contract.**

Removal of trees and scrub from at least 4 metre width inside all fence lines to allow ongoing management of fence line vegetation including stump grinding of larger tree stumps to facilitate vehicular access (approx 351 metres as shown on attached map)

1. **Regular Maintenance**

* A monthly litter pick and removal of any fly tipping from the three onsite carparks
* Cutting back all vegetation within the small and medium sized carparks and entrance aprons in May, July, Sept
* Flailing of bunds from inside fence line early spring and/or late autumn
  + East side A134 1160 metres
  + West side A134 804 metres
* Mowing of tracks/pathways outside fenceline (approx 1330 metres) in May, July, Sep
* Flailing of inside fence line accessible from outside fencing (approx 1649 metres) in late autumn
* Flailing of outside fence line accessible from inside fence line (approx 960 metres) ) in early spring and late autumn

1. **Additional works if resources allow**

* Please submit a price per hectare for the removal of areas of scrub and trees.
* Please submit a price per one hectare of surface scrape
* Please submit a price per rotovation of one hectares

**Information and evidence below must be provided if you want the council to consider your quote.**

* A written quotation for the works. Please give itemised figures for each section of the quote.
* An estimated schedule of completion of works
* Copy of public liability insurance.
* Copy of company Health and Safety Policy (If company has more than 5 employees).
* Example Method Statement
* Example Risk Assessments
* Details of 3 references
* Evidence of undertaking conservation/vegetation management on a site of special scientific interest and an understanding of the uniqueness of the Brecks habitat.
* Evidence of the ability to engage with the public and represent the council’s views.
* A brief statement of how you will work in partnership with the Town Council and the grazier to ensure the works are completed sensitively to the requirements of the site if awarded the contract.