

24 March 2016

**Village Maintenance: River Bourne Community Farm
Cllr Richard Britton**

May I briefly mention again what the Area Board is aiming at achieving in the longer term by inviting parishes to explore the idea of having a maintenance relations with RBCF:

1. It could aid PCs work (especially for the Clerk). Parish Councils spend a great deal of time discussing and organising a wide range of maintenance activities to keep their village and assets safe, clean and attractive. Clerks are forever having to seek contractors and oversee a tender process. Anything which can be done to reduce the time taken up with these activities – both by Clerks and at council meetings - represents a very real saving and improvement in the way councils operate.
2. Having a single local contractor who can respond quickly and cost-effectively to a wide range of maintenance and repair tasks – both scheduled and reactive – would improve the turnaround of such work and save time and money.
3. Any profits generated for the contractor will be retained in a community organisation rather than go into a private limited company.

I hope you will agree that these potential benefits are worth exploring.