I recently met with our proposed contractor (McGowans of Aviemore) on site to discuss the various scope items. I am now preparing the contract documents and hope to have the programme and price agreed shortly.   We have found McGowans to be a competent contractor and have good experience of working within CNPA and other sensitive areas. I am also in discussion with Gail Castle at SEPA with a view to having the appropriate engineering registrations in place prior to commencement of works.

May  I propose that we have one final pre-commencement meeting with ourselves and also McGowans attending please?  I would like to ensure that we have captured all the required works therefore avoid additional returns to the site for further remedial works. We will also request that Mike Hyatt our ACoW attends this meeting. I hope that we will be in position to meet around the end of March or early April, if that suits you?

During my visit with the contractor, we discussed possible methodologies for clearing some of the boulders from the pipeline easement where it runs adjacent to the road.  We agreed that the best approach is to be as ‘light touch’ as possible, by removing the stones without disrupting the soil, as there is evidence of decent re-growth.  Our planned approach was to set aside 1-2 days for trials to arrive at the best approach.  We will also then know how long the works may take, based on the progress made.  At this point I would appreciate if you could again visit site to discuss progress and hopefully approve it?  My concern is that we work for several weeks and ultimately do not achieve what CNPA requires.

I hope the above approach meets your agreement.  Please drop me a line anytime to discuss and I will be in touch again shortly with proposed meeting dates. My contact details are below.

Regards

Fraser

Fraser Allison