

## PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

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**Date:** Monday, 9 January 2023

**Title:** Leys Traffic Calming

**Contact Officer:** Deputy Town Clerk - Adam Clapton

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### Background

At the meeting of this committee on 7 March 2022, members were advised that a County Council scheme, requested by the town council prior to 2019, had been devised and designed to introduce traffic calming on The Leys Recreation Ground access road.

The scheme had been progressed in response to anti-social behaviour and speeding at the Leys during the evenings over many years, and at the request of local residents.

It was resolved that the Leys Traffic calming scheme should be progressed if funds from Oxfordshire County Council could be secured, in addition to a £5,000 earmarked reserve held by the town council.

In the meantime, an informal consultation of residents in properties affected by the traffic calming was conducted by members and suggested support for the scheme.

The remaining funds were subsequently agreed by the County Council and the Policy, Governance & Finance Committee agreed the proposed plans and town council contribution of £5,000 at its meeting on 28 March 2022 (minute F140 refers).

### Current Situation

A public consultation on the proposals was held during the summer by Oxfordshire County Council. Twenty-two responses were received during the formal consultation, with only four expressing direct support.

In addition, the Witney Traffic Advisory Committee considered the consultation at a meeting on 27 September and favoured the plans as they would make the road safer, their response being,

*Witney Town Council Traffic Advisory Committee welcome improvements to pedestrian safety. Members raised the issue of spacing on either side of the speed cushions and whether the proposed measures would be inclusive for tricycle users. The scheme must ensure that tricycle users have enough space to traverse the cushions and not be any increased risk of trikes tipping over. Further, it was suggested that signage could be included encouraging motorists to 'reverse in' to the parking spaces as an additional safety measure – motorists would be forward facing as they exit the parking space and join the lane.*

Members are asked to consider any further support and accompanying evidence they would like considered on this scheme before it is progressed to a County Council Cabinet decision at the end of January 2023. A plan of the current proposal is attached as **Appendix A** for information.

### **Environmental impact**

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

### **Risk**

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

The traffic calming measures would increase pedestrian safety and reduce the likelihood of speeding/anti-social behaviour issues on this stretch of road leading to the recreation ground and play areas.

There is a reputational risk should the town council wish to pursue a project which appears to have little public support.

### **Financial implications**

Described here or as stated in the report above.

- £5,000 has been earmarked towards this scheme. Oxfordshire County Council would cover the remaining funds

### **Recommendations**

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. Supporting the scheme or a re-designed scheme for traffic calming at The Leys Recreation Ground.