

## **PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

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**Date:** Monday, 6 March 2023

**Title:** West Witney - Cricket Boundary Advertising

**Contact Officer:** Operations Manager - Angus Whitburn

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### **Background**

Witney Swifts are currently the only cricket club booking Witney Town Council cricket facilities. They play all their home matches along with training at West Witney sports ground.

### **Current Situation**

#### **Boundary Wedges**

The club have requested permission, to install boundary foam wedges, on game days. Their hope is this will boost the image of the club and better signify the cricket boundary.

The boundary wedges are around 10cm high and are made from foam with a PVC cover. They sit on the ground with no fixing or over the top of a boundary rope, if installed.

#### **Boundary Rope**

Currently, the cricket boundary is marked via line marking paint. This is a short process for the Town Council works team but due to grass cutting it does involve labour and material on a weekly basis. The club have recommended instead using a traditional boundary rope. This would better signify the boundary adding to the safety of the ground on game days and almost completely removing the labour required around boundary marking.

### **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 club have said they will take full responsibility of the foam wedges should they go missing or get vandalised and offered to remove the boundary rope when the outfield requires mowing. This means that they will be no future requirement for the works team to mark out a cricket boundary.

There is a potential health and safety risk of a trip hazard if a boundary rope were to be installed. There are actions which could be implemented which would help mitigate this risk.

### **Financial implications**

Described here or as stated in the report above.

- Witney Swifts have offered to cover the costs of the boundary wedges through their own funds and sponsorship.
- The boundary rope and a holder would be covered by the sport equipment budget.
  - 220m of 28mm boundary rope: £180.00 not including VAT.
  - Boundary rope winder double: £575.00 not including VAT.

### **Recommendations**

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

1. Consider Witney Swift's request to install boundary wedges.
2. Consider the recommendation of purchasing a boundary rope for the reasons stated in the report.