

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 6 March 2023
Title: Leys Traffic Calming
Contact Officer: Project Officer - Nicky Cayley

Background

At the meeting of this committee on 9 January 2023, members were updated on the results of the County Council's consultation, which had not demonstrated strong local support for or against the proposed traffic calming scheme at The Leys 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 however, noted in the above meeting that the scheme would increase road safety around the open space the Leys offers, particularly at such a blind pedestrian junction.

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.

The Committee agreed to ask the County Council if it would delay the progression of the scheme to a cabinet decision (due at the end of January 2023) in order for the Town Council to carry out its own consultation to provide some further substantive feedback.

Current Situation

The Town Council conducted a Survey Monkey Survey which received 40 responses (double that of the County Council's consultation) from residents local to the Leys.

A summary of the response is below:-

- 67.5% of respondents were in favour of the scheme; 22.5% were not in favour.
- 62.5% of respondents said they were aware of speeding problems on The Leys access road, with 52.5% giving examples.
- 60% of respondents said they were aware of pedestrian safety issues on The Leys access road, and 57.5% gave examples.

The survey results are attached for members information (appendices 1 – 4)). Officers have also obtained the responses received to the OCC consultation (appendix 5) – it is worth noting that only one of the respondents put their location in the vicinity of The Leys (Station Lane).

Thames Valley Police advised Council officers verbally that the police have not received any recent reports relating to speeding at the Leys.

The County Council decision has been deferred until the 21 March, but their Officers need to prepare a report imminently.

If Members still wish to respond in favour of the scheme, they may like to consider the road safety aspect in conjunction with ASB, particularly in light of the feedback provided which reflects all local authority aims on active travel.

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. There are no environmental concerns connected with the proposal.

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; however, the recent Survey Monkey suggests there is a degree of local support for the scheme.

Financial implications

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

Recommendations

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

1. Whether to support the scheme or a re-designed scheme for traffic calming at The Leys Recreation Ground;
2. That, If the Committee is in support, a robust case (formulated at this meeting) is put forward to the County Council, emphasising the local support and the need for the scheme to go ahead on grounds of safety.