

## HALLS, CEMETERIES & ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

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**Date:** Monday, 10 July 2023

**Title:** Lakeside Allotment Gate Request

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

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### **Background**

The Witney Allotment Association have requested that the field gate installed at lakeside allotments is replaced with a more user-friendly option. The WAA have raised concern that many of its members are not able to operate the lock and pull the spring latch back.

### **Current Situation**

A field gate was installed on the entrance road leading down to lakeside allotments in April 2022. This was installed to control access down the private road which leads to the allotments.

As the field gate is hard to open for certain users it has meant it has been getting left open. The latch on the field gate requires the user to pull back a strong spring. Furthermore, the lock required on the gate needs to have a shackle, meaning it can be hard to thread the lock through the locking point.

The solution would be to install a more standard 1.8m security mesh gate that is a standard installation across Witney Town Council estate. The design of these units is more user-friendly as they have sliding latch bolts, larger locking points and the pedestrian gate can be installed with code locks.

The installation would be made up of a configuration that best suits the width of the road, ideally, this would be a double-leaf gate with separate pedestrian access, if this isn't possible to install it would be just a double-leaf vehicle gate. The security mesh gate would be at a 1.8m height so would increase the security of the private access road.

### **Environmental impact**

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

As raised in the report the current field gate was installed in April 2022 so is a waste of materials to remove it. However, if wide enough it could be reutilised on the access road to the lake running beside the substation.

## **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 main vehicle gate would still require a padlock so it doesn't address the issue of using a lock and the same concerns with the gate being left open are still valid.

## **Financial implications**

Described here or as stated in the report above.

- The earmarked reserve for allotment sites would cover the installation of the gate at Lakeside allotments, approximate cost £3,000.
- The WAA have minimal reserves which wouldn't cover the works.

## **Recommendations**

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

1. Replace the entrance road field gate with a 1.8m single/double leaf vehicle gate with a pedestrian access gate alongside.