

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 4 September 2023

Title: West Witney Sports Ground Storage Request – Witney Road Runners

Contact Officer: Operations Manager

Background

Witney Road Runners have approached Witney Town Council with the request to place a storage container at West Witney Sports Ground. Witney Road Runners would purchase the container and arrange for its delivery and placement.

Current Situation

Witney Road Runners have moved their base from the Windrush Leisure Centre to West Witney Sports and Social Club. When they originally approached the council with the request it was recommended by the Operations Manager that they approach the social club for storage space. However, the social club have told the road runners they have no space plus it wouldn't suit the club's intended use.

There are currently Storage containers at West Witney for Swifts CC, Tower Hill FC and Parkrun. There would be space to fit a fourth storage container for Witney Road Runners. However, the council's plans to reinstate the depot at West Witney would mean these containers would have to be moved to a new location or encompassed into the new depot plans.

The clubs that have storage containers at West Witney use the ground for their activities and pay for the hire of the ground or have user agreements with the council. Although Witney Road Runners do operate in Witney, they also organise events all over the country.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting, 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.

If the council do agree to the request they would be setting a precedent for the council to agree to other requests from non-associated clubs on its recreation grounds. There would become a point when these containers become unsightly and overwhelming.

Financial implications

Described here or as stated in the report above.

- Witney Road Runners will cover all the costs relating to the storage container.

Recommendations

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

1. Consider the request for a storage container at West Witney Sports Ground.