

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 4 September 2023
Title: Skate Park Refurbishment Update
Contact Officer: Head of Estates & Operations

Background

Witney Town Council's Open Spaces Strategy, published in April 2021, sets out 5 themes to help deliver improvements for the people of Witney: parks, sport, leisure, infrastructure, effectiveness.

Local consultation identified the need for a replacement wheeled sports facility at The Leys recreation ground. The existing skatepark was installed nearly 20 years ago and in need of modernisation with focus on inclusivity for all.



Our prime objectives were to;

- Replace, update, improve and diversify the current wheeled sports provision
- Create a safe, inviting space for a wider age and ability range for all genders
- Increase use of facility including people with disabilities
- Reduce obesity, improve health and well being
- Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour
- Create an aesthetically pleasing design that is unique to the park
- Offer a range of activities to complement and enhance skating and riding
- Instil pride in the local community and foster a sense ownership for the park solution based on their experience and expertise

Current Situation

The Council set aside funds towards a new wheeled sports area which was tendered receiving 4 submissions for evaluation. The successful tenderer was Bendcrete Skateparks, who happened to be the original provider of the existing park. The design incorporates making use of the existing features present to provide the following design.



The key next stage of this project is to consult with local groups and park users for feedback on any tweaks to the design.

We are waiting for a response from the WODC Planning Team to confirm permitted development will apply.

The initial site and desktop surveys will now begin to determine the logistics for project delivery.

The Timeline for delivery has not been confirmed at this stage however the park will remain open for summer and autumn, and be completed for Spring in 2024.

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.

The project delivery plans, risk and method statements will be analysed with regular site supervision to mitigate environmental hazards.

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.

This report is an update of progress with this project and risks associated with delivery will be managed by Council Officers.

Financial implications

This is a £150,000-£165,000 project.

An application for £65,000 of funding has been submitted to the FCC's Community Action Foundation with notification of the outcome expected during September.

WTC are contributing £100k to this project, and Courtside (the community interest company who currently manage the golf, tennis and coffee shed at The Leys) have committed up to £50k that will be dependent on the level of any funding received.

Recommendations

This is a project update however any feedback is always appreciated.