

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 30 October 2023
Title: Satisfaction Survey Comments
Contact Officer: Deputy Town Clerk

Background

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with a detailed breakdown of comments received during the Town Council's Resident Satisfaction Survey earlier this year to help inform future budget-setting for items under the remit of this Committee.

Current Situation

Members are asked to consider whether any of these items should be included in the Council's emerging Strategic Plan, and therefore whether budgets need to be incorporated in the short, medium, or long-term. The comments were:

Play Areas

New equipment at The Leys - too boring, 10+
Condition/cleanliness of Leys Splash Park/muddy
Condition of Deer Park Play Area - unsuitable for young children
Oxlease Play Area needs fencing off
More benches needed in the Splash Park
All parks could do with new stuff
Better maintenance of play equipment before wrecked and unusable

Recreation Grounds

Condition of Burwell Field & Surrounding area
Bins are always full at The Leys (addressed via Stronger Communities Committee)
Not enough seats at The Leys
Open Spaces are poor
More sports facilities/sports grounds needed
Open spaces not maintained well

Comments regarding the facilities at the Skate Park and West Witney Sports and Social Club are already being address via ongoing projects.

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 this Committee deals primarily with outside areas, there would likely be an impact if the above items are picked up as projects.

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.

There is a reputational risk if the Council does not address comments received in its satisfaction survey.

The Council's committees will have competing demands on the overall Council budget so other projects may take priority over these.

Financial implications

Described here or as stated in the report above.

- The Council only has a limited budget. The Council's play area earmarked reserve has been expunged following this Committee's decision to replace play equipment at Burwell and King George's Recreation Grounds.

Recommendations

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

1. Requesting funds for play area renewals in the 2024-25 budget and,
2. Requesting increased funds for play area/recreation ground infrastructure for further benches and bins in the 2024-25 budget and,
3. Whether further funds are requested for Oxlease Play Area fencing and improved surfacing at the Leys.