

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 15 January 2024

Title: Leys Parking Restrictions

Contact Officer: Head of Estates & Operations

Background

The Leys is a much loved and extensively used recreational park with football pitches, a cricket pitch, wheeled sports park, splash park (seasonal) and adventure play. There are also tennis courts and mini golf which are available to hire and Witney Town Bowls Club.

WTC is committed to delivering on its Open Spaces Strategy which includes a masterplan for The Leys. WTC has a strategic remit to get people to move more, and parks are a great way into informal, recreational exercise in early life or sustaining good health in later life.

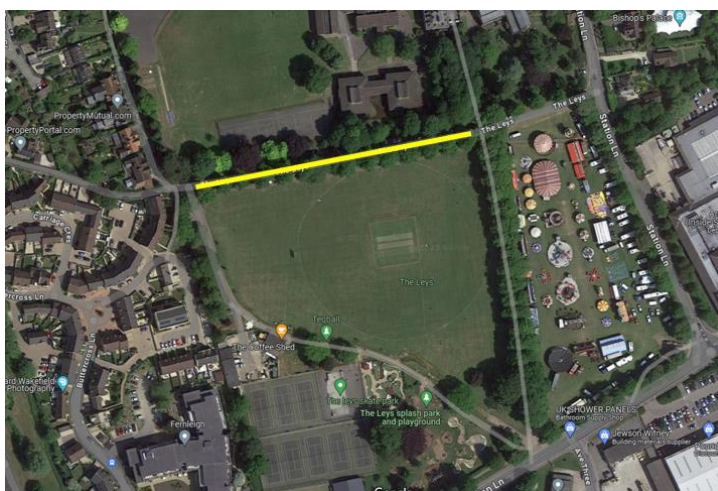
Current Situation

A planning application by Courtside is to be heard by the WODC planning committee on 08 January 2024 for a new multi-activity hub that will include a larger and more efficient community café with an indoor activity space, improved public access toilets, and increase the number of activities currently offered by Courtside (mini golf and tennis).

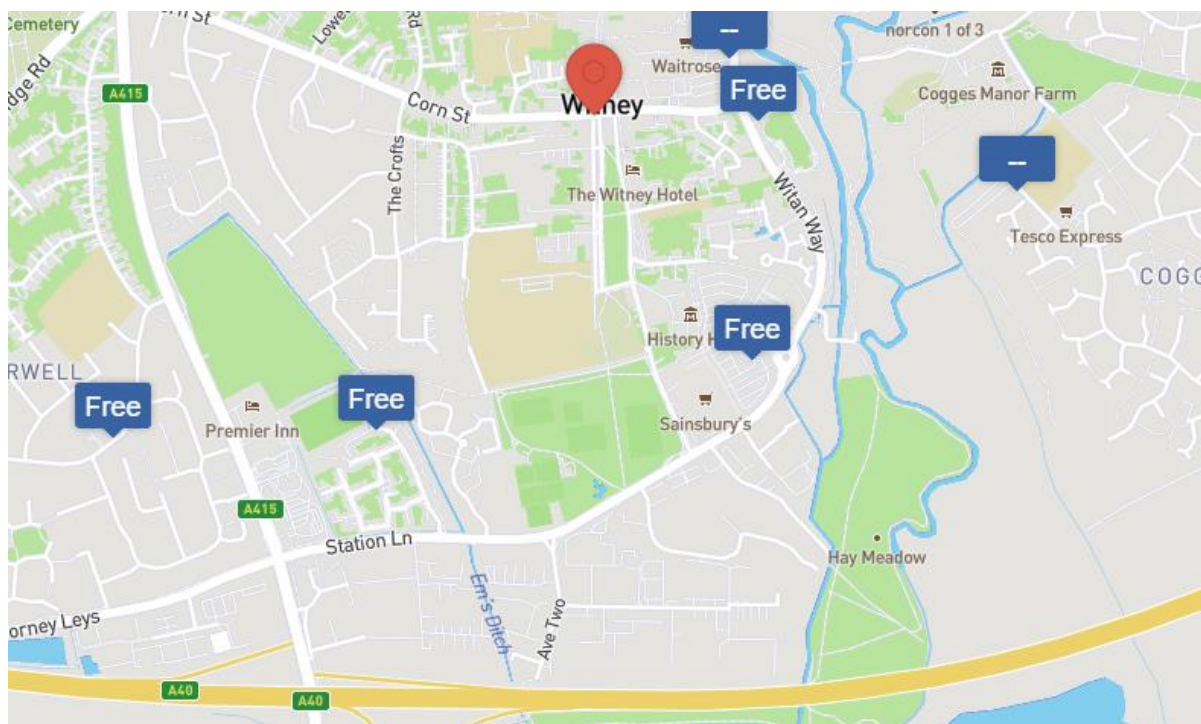
A major concern for the operators Courtside is the limited parking available at the Leys which they fear will have a detrimental effect on the volume of visitors to their facilities that have to use their vehicles.

The car park at the Leys consists of 62 spaces in the area marked in yellow to the right.

Vehicles are often left here all day which prevent the car park being used by visitors to the Leys attractions.



Visitors to the Leys can use other car parks, Sainsbury's being the closest and on road parking around this location, however the maximum stay is mostly limited to 2 hours.



WTC officers have explored options for introducing parking restrictions and enforcement having obtained associated costs listed in the financial implications section of this document. These are based on 3 hours limit with no return within 1 hour.

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.

Whilst WTC encourage to use of walking, cycling and using public transport, there is still a recognition that some may have to use their vehicles.

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.

- Introducing restrictions could push vehicles into neighbouring residential areas.
- Not introducing restrictions would reduce the availability of parking for users of the Leys facilities.
 - Courtside are adamant they require parking restrictions in place for the use of their multi-hub facilities.

Financial implications

Can be viewed in confidential Appendix A.

Recommendations

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

1. The introduction of parking restrictions at the Ley's car park to encourage and maximise the use of the facilities at the Leys including the new multi-activity hub being built.
2. To approve the cost of £3,740 (TBC as Option A) for the introduction of a traffic regulation order, signage and enforcement and a WTC contribution of £1,870.