

## **PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

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**Date:** Monday, 15 January 2024  
**Title:** Splash Pad Renovation Works  
**Contact Officer:** Operations Manager

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### **Background**

As part of Courtside Hub CIC's development of the Ley's there is a requirement to move the splash pad holding tank. The current holding tank sits behind the existing coffee shed building, which Courtside plan to build out from as well as converting the remaining depot ground into parking spaces.

The splash pad also requires further maintenance work to get it fully operational for the 2024 season. The original wastewater holding tank installed underground has collapsed and will need to be replaced. There are also still works scheduled from 2023 to get the system back onto a timer control system.

Additionally, a long-term aim of the Council has been to convert the splash pads' current wastewater system over to a recycled water system. This would be done by installing a sand filter along with an ultraviolet line to treat the water and then recycle it back into the system.

### **Current Situation**

The splash pad water treatment plant currently wastes all water to a tank below the surface of the Ley's play area. This is then pumped to a holding tank (within the Leys depot) which is then flushed under control to a second holding tank for all the grey and wastewater from the Leys site. And finally, it is pumped from this tank up to the main waste line.

Witney Town Council's splash pad contractor has submitted 3 proposals for works specified by officers. The first proposal only involves the immediate repairs the splash pad requires for it to be operational on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April.

All three options will require the closure of the Ley's play area for the duration of the works. Option 1 will take 5 weeks to be completed and options 2 and 3 will take between 7 – 8 weeks to be complete depending on weather and unforeseen delays.

### **Option 1**

As outlined above the water tank beneath the Ley's play area, has collapsed and requires replacement. The current tank was installed without any form of reinforced ground,

additionally, the tank is also not believed to be suitable for underground installation, resulting in its collapse.

The existing tank will be removed, a new foundation will be installed and then a new tank along with a concrete mix to reinforce the surrounding ground.

### **Option 2**

Option 2 includes everything from option one but with the additional scope to relocate the holding tank that is within in Ley's depot. This work is required to enable Courtside's development plans to take place.

A new concrete footing will be installed within the Ley's play area, the current holding tank will then be relocated and all plumbing rerouted. This option then creates the requirement to pump the water from this tank to the grey and wastewater tank. An additional 2 submersible pumps will then be installed to enable this.

### **Option 3**

The final option is identical to option 2 but instead of reutilising the current holding tank, it will be replaced with a filtration system. This would filter and clean the grey water from the splash pad and recirculate it into the system for reuse.

The grey water produced from the splash pad would be filtered through a sand-based filter to remove solids. A UV line will then be used to disinfect that water for reuse. The system wouldn't utilise any chemicals such as disinfectants or flocculants.

Although the water is filtered and disinfected there will still be a requirement to send water to waste, this volume of water would however be heavily reduced. Due to this, there's still a requirement to plumb this tank into the grey and wastewater tank along with pumps.

Both options 2 and 3 will require a tank to be situated within the Leys play area, this would need to be fenced off for security and a gate installed for maintenance. To improve the aesthetic of the tank as much hedging will be retained as possible and new hedging whips plated were possible.

### **Option 4**

Due to the cost of the works and risk identified in commissioning these works an unpopular decision, but an informed one would be to close the splash pad for the 2024 season. Officers can then explore the full renovation of its system and surface for the 2025 season as requested by Members during the Council's budget-setting period.

### **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 current splash pad system sends all the water to waste. Due to contaminants in the water, body fat, sun cream etc. it cannot be reutilised for any of the councils' operations. For the council to meet its climate objectives the installation of a recycling system should be a priority.

### **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 holding tank that will be moved from option 2 is a 10,000 ltr black plastic tank, this would be an unsightly addition to the leys play area and ground. Although efforts would be made to disguise it it's still very likely going to be visible to the public. There is a similar issue with option 3 however the height wouldn't be that of the 10,000 tank. Hedging and fencing would secure and disguise the holding tank however it would still be an unappealing addition to the Ley's recreation ground.

Courtside has indicated to Witney Town Council they plan to start the development of the Leys in mid-February. With the lead times provided by the splash pad contractors and the management and scheduling of work still required it is unrealistic to remove the holding tank by this date. At this current time, it is not known how this will impact the schedule of Courtside's development project.

Furthermore, as Witney Town Council haven't received a schedule of work following planning approval, it makes it impossible to work our contractors around courtside contractors, this would inevitably lead to delays in the renovations of the splash pad system, plus unforeseen technical issues.

The closure of the splash pad would be a massive loss for Witney, it is a free popular attraction for families during its operations. And the announcement of its closure for 2024 would draw much criticism from the council.

### **Financial implications**

Described here or as stated in the report above.

- Option 1 £21,400.00 ex VAT
- Option 2 £33,550.00 ex VAT
- Option 3 £41,300.00 ex VAT
- Option 4 is not yet quoted but would involve the capping of all splash pad inlets and removal of the 10,000ltr tank.
- Fencing costs for options 2 and 3 would be estimated at around £1200.00 ex VAT
- There is a £172,500.00 earmarked reserve for the renovation of the splash pad that can be used for the completion of these works.

## **Recommendations**

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

1. Whether to choose either option 2 or 3 identified in the report.
2. Delegate officers to remove the holding tank in the Leys Depot and shut down the Leys splash pad for 2024.
3. Commit to a full redevelopment of the Leys splash pad for 2025 and close the site for the 2024 season.