
Agenda Item: Recreation Ground Security Update

Meeting Date: Monday, 9 September 2024

Contact Officer: Deputy Town Clerk

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update regarding the Council's recreation grounds.

Background

Members will be aware an unauthorised traveller entry was made on Friday 30th August at Burwell Recreation Ground.

This was the second entry at this site during the year and although access was gained illegally, officers are in the process of conducting a security review for all town council sites to see how it can be improved. It should be noted new knee-rail fencing was installed following the first incident in an earlier review.

Additionally, during the summer period, an increased number of anti-social behaviour events were reported at The Leys and at the Coffee Shed's temporary facility.

Current Situation

At Burwell Recreation Ground specifically, a new 4m steel gate and post have been ordered to make the overall site more secure and a new padlock has been added.

If there are further cost implications outside of budget, they will be brought back to the Committee.

At the Leys, a meeting took place with TVP representatives, Courtside Hubs and WTC officers which resulted in the CCTV camera being rotated to offer a better view of the wheeled sports park area, an agreement to cut back trees to offer a better site line for Courtside's CCTV, an agreement for more evening and weekend police patrols and further security recommendations for Courtside.

Impact Assessments

The Town Council has a duty to consider the effects of its decisions, functions and activities on equality, biodiversity, and crime & disorder. Consideration should also be given to effects on the environment, given the Council's Climate Emergency declaration in 2019.

a) Equality – no impact.

- b) Biodiversity – no impact.
- c) Crime & Disorder – the improvement of security at Council facilities will help improve the risk of crime and disorder for the community.
- d) Environment & Climate Emergency – while wood may be more sustainable and in keeping with the environment, on balance, the use of steel provides a durable, safer and more secure long-term material.

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 financial risk should damage to Council facilities continue to occur.
- There is a reputational risk should it be seen the Council is not implementing measures to improve security at its facilities.

Social Value

Social value is the positive change the Council creates in the local community within which it operates.

Financial implications

- The cost of the gate is £1,051.13 + delivery from the existing property maintenance budget.
- The cost of tree trimming at the Leys will be from existing staffing budgets.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report.