
Agenda Item: King George V Footpath
Meeting Date: 13 January 2025
Contact Officer: Head of Estates and Operations

The purpose of this report is to provide detail of an opportunity for a footpath to be installed at King George V Field.

Background

Oxfordshire County Council are in the early stages of working with Witney Town Council to scope the spec for a new path across King George V Field which is a town council recreation space. The path is for Wood Green School pupils who currently cut across the field from Kingsfield Crescent to Pens Close to access the side gate of the school. There is a live planning application to increase the size of the school, so an opportunity to collect some S106, and a specification and cost estimate is required for the path in order to collect an adequate amount of S106.

Current Situation

Witney Town Council Officers have been working with the Highways team at OCC and have approved a specification for the proposed footpath and estimated costs.

The proposal is for OCC to secure S106 funds for the total costs associated with the installation of the path and for WTC to be responsible for all future repair and maintenance. OCC are currently working to establish the roles and responsibility for delivery that will satisfy the S106 agreement. Lighting along the footpath is also being researched, more detail will follow as the scheme progresses.

At this early-stage Officers are seeking approval to continue to pursue this opportunity.

Location Plan: King George V Field,
Newland, Witney, OX28 3JN

3m wide footpath to take the most
direct route around existing MUGA.



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 – To ensure equality in footpaths for school children involves creating safe, accessible, and inclusive environments for all children, regardless of their background and abilities taking into account;
 - Accessibility for all designed with ramps or low curbs at intersections to make them accessible for children with disabilities, those in wheelchairs, or using strollers.
 - Wide Paths to accommodate children walking in groups, as well as those with mobility aids or bicycles.
 - Clear Signage should be visible and understandable for children, including children with visual or cognitive disabilities. The use of visual cues can help younger children understand where to walk.
- b) Biodiversity – Designated footpaths help contain human activity to specific areas, minimizing the potential for habitat destruction in other parts of the landscape.
- c) Crime & Disorder - Footpaths should be well-lit to ensure children can walk safely during the early morning or late afternoon hours.
- d) Environment & Climate Emergency - Footpaths provide safe spaces for pedestrians, encouraging walking over driving. This helps reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to cleaner air and a reduction in the overall carbon footprint.

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 are no identifiable risks at this initial stage to WTC.

Social Value

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

Footpaths help to encourage Social Interaction allowing people of all ages and abilities to move through communities, whether to meet friends, run errands, or participate in social events.

Financial implications

- No WTC expense identified at this stage

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and

1. Approval for Officers to continue to pursue this opportunity.