
Agenda Item: Amenity Land Areas Mis-use – Installation of Bollards

Meeting Date: Monday, 24 March 2025

Contact Officer: Operations Manager

Background

Witney Town Council maintains a large amount of the smaller pieces of amenity land that make up housing estates in Witney. This land unlike the larger recreation grounds is unprotected from misuse but can be of high social importance to residents for which it provides an area for recreational purposes.

Current Situation

A request to protect a small parcel of land within Manor Road (**Appendix A**) has come into the council. Residents have been parking on the green killing off the grass and making it unusable for residents. To solve the issue officers would like to install bollards to protect the green.

Where misuse has been identified on these smaller parcels of land strategic tree planting is normally preferred however the size of the area of land and the proximity to the road means this wouldn't be a suitable solution.

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) Biodiversity – Small areas of amenity land have a biodiversity benefit
- b) Crime & Disorder – Small areas of amenity land have been subject to fly-tipping
- c) Environment & Climate Emergency – Grassland in estates is important for cooling and drainage through evapotranspiration.

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.

Many areas of amenity land have been protected through the use of strategic planting. Although small certain areas do require bollards and in not reacting proactively these areas would become more damaged through misuse primarily by vehicles.

Social Value

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

These smaller parcels of amenity land are of high social value to neighbouring residents who use them for recreation purposes.

Financial implications

- Budget codes 402/4036 and 402/4066 are sufficient to cover the annual requirements to protect greens.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report.