

STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE



Agenda Item: Request for bollard to prevent vehicular access to pathways and green space

Meeting Date: Monday, 26 January 2026

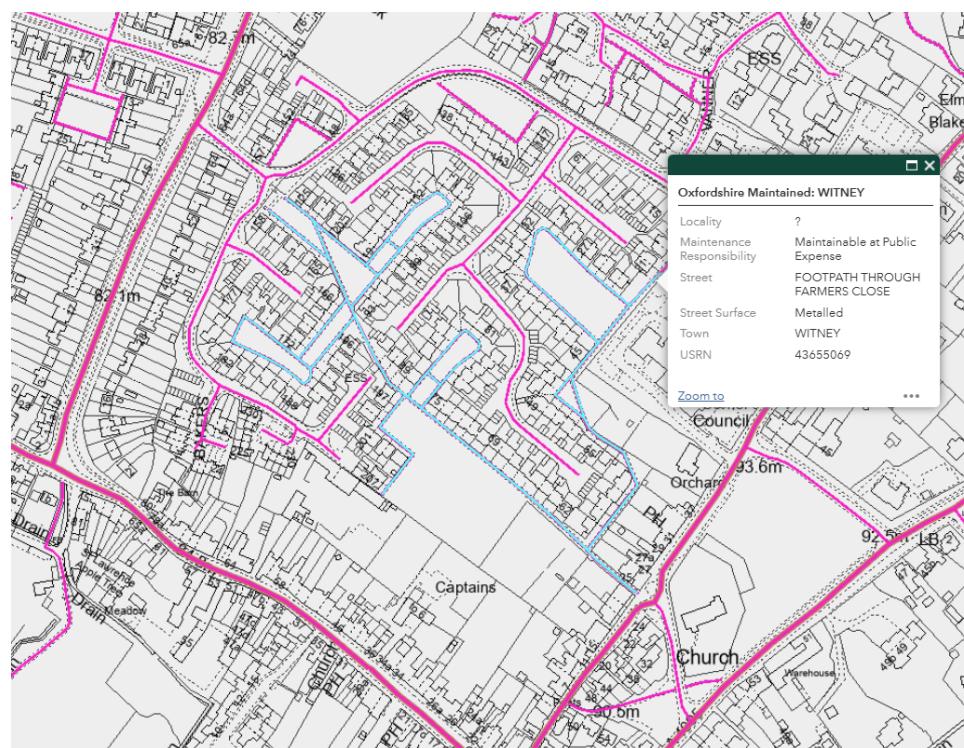
Contact Officer: Head of Estates and Operations

The purpose of this report is to detail a request made by a resident of Farmers Close who is also acting on behalf of other neighbouring residents. They have asked for the Town Council to take measures to prevent vehicular access to pathways and green spaces at Farmers Close, Witney. Vehicles have been damaging the grassed areas, driving along pathways and getting very close to homes and gardens.

Background

A resident has contacted the Town Council to ask for a bollard to be reinstated to the path to prevent vehicles from entering the pathways and green spaces. They have reported the issue is related to trades persons driving vehicles to access to construction works in the vicinity. A bollard used to be present in the path, and it is unknown why this was removed and by whom.

The footpath is under Oxfordshire County Council Publicly Maintained Highway responsibility.



Ariel view of Farmers Close and Green Spaces



The following photos were provided to support the request for a bollard to be reinstated to prevent access.



Current Situation

Officers have inspected the area and found where the previous bollard was installed and identified where a new bollard would be positioned.



Should the council approve the proposal officers will approach OCC for permission to install.

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 - supports equality by protecting safe, accessible areas for everyone, especially children and disabled people, so public spaces can be enjoyed fairly without being dominated or damaged by vehicles.
- b) Biodiversity - helps protect UK biodiversity by preventing habitat damage, soil compaction, and disturbance to wildlife, allowing plants and animals to thrive in a healthier, more resilient environment.
- c) Crime & Disorder - helps reduce crime and disorder by deterring antisocial behaviour such as illegal vehicle use, fly-tipping, and vandalism, while making the area safer and more welcoming for the local community.
- d) Environment & Climate Emergency - supports the council's Environment and Climate Emergency objectives by protecting natural habitats, reducing vehicle-related damage and emissions, and helping green spaces continue to absorb carbon and support climate resilience.

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.

Access for emergency services has been considered, and officers have made enquiries and are waiting for responses.

Social Value

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

Financial implications

The anticipated cost to supply and install the bollard will be between £250 and £600.

Recommendations

Member are invited to note the report and,

1. To delegate to officers to seek permission from Oxfordshire County Council to install a bollard in the location identified.
2. If permission is granted, to supply and install the bollard subject to approval from the emergency services.