
Agenda Item: Third-Party Events Report

Meeting Date: Monday 23rd March

Contact Officer: Venue & Events Officer

The purpose of this report is to update members on the Third-Party Events that have taken place or are due to take place on WTC land in 2026.

Background

Witney Town Council facilitates a number of events throughout the year on council managed land such as The Leys, Burwell Recreation Ground and West Witney Playing Fields. Officers work with the organisers of these events to review their event plans to ensure; health and safety, licensing and legal compliance, protection from damage to our ground (through measures to limit damage and holding damage deposits) and to obtain their specific requirements for the grounds team to facilitate such as removing bollards for vehicle access etc.

Witney Town Council is also a partner of some of these events, including Witney Music Festival. Officers work in collaboration with the partner organisations by providing promotional support to help maximise the attendance of the event and to showcase the partnership between the council and the organisation.

Current Situation

2026 Events

West Oxfordshire Levellers Girls Skills Day – 8th March

The West Oxfordshire Levellers hosted a skills day aimed at getting girls into playing Rugby League. The event was delivered successfully and the club thanked Witney Town Council for allowing them to use The Leys.

Upcoming Events 2026

Thames Valley Police Have a Go Day – 28th March

The event is being organised by TVP Witney & Carterton Neighbourhood Policing Team aimed at 10–18-year-olds.

Activities confirmed so far include:

- Terry Price skatepark session
- A boxing club
- Witney Vikings YFC – goal shooting etc.
- Woodwork sessions

Hatwell's Funfair – 13th – 17th May

Annually returning funfair at the Leys.

Witney Pride – 23rd May

This event involves a procession through the Town Centre, to the Leys where the remainder of the event is held. There will be multiple local stall holders and entertainment.

Witney Music Festival – 11th – 13th June

Witney Music Festival will be operating on Friday and Saturday as usual, with an additional comedy event on Thursday 11th June. The Comedy will take place in the dance tent, further utilising their time on site. Tickets are on sale now via witneymusicfestival.com

Witney Carnival – Saturday 11th July

The annual carnival is due to take place on Saturday 11th July.

OPA Play Day – Thursday 6th August. The OPA Play Day will be returning to **Burwell Recreation Ground**. Officers are planning an Open Day at Burwell Hall on this date to make the most of the high footfall at the rec.

Witney Feast – 13th – 15th September (dates TBC)

Operational Update

Due to the decision to re-instate the 11-a-side football pitch on the events field at The Leys, Witney Feast will be the last event of the year on this field. This means that one regular circus hirer is unable to return for their usual October date. As their touring route is already planned, officers are working to find a solution for 2027 to allow them to visit at a different time of year.

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 – no impact
- d) Environment & Climate Emergency – All events outline steps to minimise their impact on the environment within their event management plan.

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.

Social Value

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

Community events such as music festivals, fairs, pride celebrations, and carnivals play a vital role in strengthening the social fabric of a town. These gatherings create inclusive spaces where people from diverse backgrounds can come together to celebrate, connect, and share experiences.

These events also encourage volunteerism and community involvement, empowering residents to actively shape their town's character.

Financial implications

- Already agreed through the budget-setting process

Recommendations

This is an update. Members are invited to note the report.