
Agenda Item: Skate Park Fencing

Meeting Date: Monday, 22 June 2026

Contact Officer: Head of Estates and Operations

The purpose of this report is to present an assessment of the existing boundary fencing between the skate park and Courtside, identify associated risks, and provide Members with a range of repair and upgrade options for consideration.

Background

The existing boundary fence between the skate park and Courtside has suffered repeated failures, with at least seven panels damaged and repaired. Damage is deliberate and recurring, primarily to have gained access into the Courtside development and remove loose materials for use within the skate park. Inspections identified severely bowed and distorted panels, although the posts remain generally vertical and serviceable.

Current Situation

Site inspections identified the following key risks:

- Public safety risks from broken or deformed mesh, sharp edges, and uncontrolled access between uses.
- Operational risks from the continued repair cycle and potential damage to the glass-walled padel courts.
- The behaviour causing damage appears established and ongoing and is not solely linked to construction activity.

The existing fence technical summary.

- Light-duty welded mesh panels (2440mm x 3020mm full panels).
- Approximate total fence length: 50m (20.5 panels).
- Existing posts are in good condition and serviceable with an anticipated lifespan of 20–30 years in their current configuration.
- Increasing fence height and/or panel strength will increase structural loading and may exceed the original design capacity of the posts.

Options Framework (Note: all costs are estimates and to be confirmed)

Option A: Like-for-Like Repairs

- Replace damaged panels only: £1,200–£1,800
- Extend courtside fence height: £2,000–£2,800
- Extend rear fence height: £1,700–£2,400
- Extend partial rear fence height: £250–£600

Option B: Upgrade to 868 Twin-Wire Mesh

- Courtside replacement with height extension: £3,500–£5,000
- Rear fence replacement with height extension: £3,000–£4,200
- Partial rear replacement with height extension: £800–£1,400
- Front and side fence (golf side) without height extension: £3250–£4600

Option C: Upgrade to 358 Anti-Climb Mesh

- Front and courtside replacement with height extension: £5,000–£7,500
- Rear fence replacement with height extension: £4,500–£6,800
- Partial rear replacement with height extension: £1,200–£2,200

Option D: Structural Post Upgrade

- Upgrade posts to minimum 80x80 RHS: £2,500–£4,000 (add-on to any option)

The fence line between the skatepark and the Courtside hub.



The current sections increased in height matching the existing fencing.



Assessment

While some damage may reduce now that Courtside is fully operational, evidence suggests the existing fencing system is inherently vulnerable at the interface between a skate park and adjacent facilities. Damage has occurred across multiple fence lines, including locations where access to Courtside would not be achieved, indicating a combination of accidental and intentional impacts.

The existing fence has demonstrated repeat failure and remains exposed to skate park impacts, climbing, pushing and pulling loads, and the risk of objects being projected towards Courtside. For this reason, Members have been presented with a range of options from lower-cost repair and height extension through to more robust fencing systems, enabling an informed decision between accepting ongoing maintenance risk or investing in a more durable long-term solution.

Corporate Strategy

The Council's Strategic Plan 2025–29 sets out the Council's long-term priorities and direction, supporting its mission to 'make Witney a great place to live, work and visit.' This report contributes to the delivery of the following strategic pillar of the plan:

1. A Forward Looking Town Council

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 direct equality impacts identified.
- b) Biodiversity – No significant biodiversity impacts identified.
- c) Crime & Disorder – Improved fencing may reduce unauthorised access, anti-social behaviour and vandalism.
- d) Environment & Climate Emergency – Replacement works will have limited environmental impact. More durable solutions may reduce future maintenance visits and material use.

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.

The current fencing presents ongoing safety, operational and asset protection risks. Continued reliance on like-for-like repairs is likely to result in recurring maintenance costs and ongoing risk exposure.

Social Value

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

Improved fencing would provide a safer environment for users of both the skate park and Courtside facilities, protecting public assets and supporting community use of the site.

Financial implications

- Indicative costs range from £1,200 for basic repairs, and from approximately £10,500 for security-grade fencing solutions, with structural post upgrades costing an additional £2,500–£4,000 where required.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. Option A: Like for like repairs being the lowest-cost solution, focused on repairs and selective height increases.
2. Option B: 868 Twin-Wire Mesh providing un upgraded more robust fencing.
3. Option C: 358 Anti-Climb Mesh offering the highest security with 358 anti-climb mesh.
4. Option D: Structural Post Upgrade where required