PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Agenda Item: Major Capital Projects Update – Ralegh Crescent MUGA

Meeting Date: Monday 2 November 2026

Contact Officer: Project Officer

The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update regarding the major capital projects that are currently in flight.

Background

As you are aware, Witney Town Council's Open Spaces Strategy cited 5x themes to deliver improvements for our community: Parks, Sport, Leisure, Infrastructure & Effectiveness.

This report aims to provide you with an update on the major capital project linked to Parks and Recreation, which is Ralegh Crescent MUGA

Ralegh Crescent MUGA



Current Situation

- West Oxfordshire District Council is both the landowner and the holder of the Section 106 funding associated with this project. Therefore, it is responsible for the contractual and financial management. The Town Council is responsible for the evaluation of contractors, public consultation and the day-to-day delivery of the project.
- The project has experienced several delays arising from the complexities associated with the Section 106 process, the consideration of alternative site locations and resource constraints within the District Council. These factors have impacted the overall programme and progress of the project.
- To support the successful delivery of the project, District Council officers are currently exploring legal mechanisms that would enable the transfer of contractual and financial responsibilities to the Town Council. This would allow Town Council officers to assume full control of the project, streamline decision-making processes and help expedite delivery.
- Town Council officers are currently awaiting further advice and guidance from District Council officers regarding the most appropriate way forward.

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 – inclusivity and accessibility to everyone are important design features of this park, which are highlighted in tender and subsequent evaluation process.
b) Biodiversity – the project plans to deliver above the minimal uplift in BNG
c) Crime & Disorder – location is an area subjected to occasional anti-social behaviour, which was raised at consultation events. We have asked for this issue to be addressed within the design and lighting/CCTV innovations.
d) Environment & Climate Emergency – building construction consists of environmentally friendly materials and lighting will be energy efficient. Muga specification includes soundproof materials to reduce sound of ball strikes.

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.

- Differences in Town Council and District Council protocol, processes and cultures could present challenges agreeing tender specifications and transferring ownership to Witney Town Council. We are managing risk by learning from previous experience with Play Park and effective comms through robust procurement process and project management.

- Officers recognise that concepts which were presented at public consultation last year will be different to what is being delivered due to S106 spending criteria. Officers are taking relevant feedback from consultation event to incorporate into new design scope.

Social Value

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

- A key objective of the park is to encourage exercise through fun activities, which attracts users from every segment of the community to encourage social, generational, cultural and physical integration.
- Another key objective is making a safe and fun area for girls to participate in sporting activities.
- The park will address a growing concern of anti-social behaviour in the existing park, due to its covered seating areas, which are poorly lit.

Financial implications

- The project budget is reliant on S106 monies from District Council, which means the town council must work in partnership to deliver project. Robust processes need to be in place to ensure robust contracts are in place and smooth transfer of ownership is achieved.

Recommendations

This is a project update however any feedback is always appreciated