

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 1 November 2021

Title: Sewer to The Leys Bowls Club

Contact Officer: Project Officer - Nicky Cayley

Background

The current sewer runs from Witney Town Bowls Club, across the play area, across the crazy golf course and then runs from the exit of the crazy golf, diagonally across the grass up to the top north-west corner where it joins the main sewer. The sewer was put in in the mid to late 1990s and was not buried deep enough. It was buried to 8" depth and was laid into rock with no protection surrounding it.

Current Situation

Due to the incorrect depth of burial, the sewer has been damaged several times, for example, when marquees have been erected during events and also during sports pitch renovation such as spiking and verti-draining. Currently the damage has been patched but this is not a long-term solution and it's likely that further damage will occur. If it does sustain further damage, it gives rise to the risk of sewage leaking onto The Leys.

Officers have consulted a civil engineering firm who have provided a proposal with costing. After discussion it was agreed that the best plan would be to run the pipe around the outside edge of The Leys, rather than running it diagonally across. To replace the pipe diagonally would be very disruptive – if the work is done during the summer the cricket pitch would not be usable and would mean that the field could not be used by the Carnival or Witney Feast and in the winter, it would mean that football could not take place. To re-route the sewer around the outside would reduce the impact of the works for all users of the park.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

If the sewer is replaced there would no longer be the risk of a sewage leak which would have a negative impact on the environment.

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.

A replacement sewer will reduce the risk of sewage leaks on The Leys.

Financial implications

A quote is attached for budgetary information. This is likely to change in line with any inflationary costs.

Recommendations

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

1. The quotation as presented, and
2. The most appropriate way forward for this project – diagonal across the Leys or around the edge, and
3. A potential budget request for 2022-23.