

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 7 March 2022

Title: Leys Traffic Calming Scheme

Contact Officer: Project Officer - Nicky Cayley

Background

At a meeting of the former Council administration's Sport and Recreation Committee on 22nd May 2017, members discussed how to deal with a complaint about speeding on The Leys access road. They also considered parking related issues as cars were parking along the side of the road as well as in the marked bays.

Further discussions on the situation followed with local stakeholders and local residents asked for speed humps to be considered. At the time, the County Council did not have funding for a TRO to implement yellow lines – hence the white line was put down as part of the Highways Lining maintenance to discourage parking outside of the bays.

In January 2020, the possibility of speed humps was discussed again with County Council Officers and a cost of £10,000 was mooted, with potential match funding from the County Council being possible to complete the project in conjunction with the Town Council. The County Council agreed to design and cost a scheme for approval by the Town Council at a later date.

Current Situation

The Project Officer contacted the County Council to ascertain the progress post Covid-19 and the Principal Officer – Traffic & Road Safety (North), has supplied a scheme (Appendix A) for the Town Council's consideration.

The pre-design estimate of £10,000 has been exceeded as the design process identified very poor carriageway construction, and consequently there would be a need to reconstruct the carriageway in order to take speed cushions.

The Town Council will need to reposition a planter if the scheme goes ahead, as per the drawing.

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.

There is no negative environmental impact associated with the proposal.

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.

There is a risk in that as speed cushions are proposed rather than speed humps, cars may be able to negotiate these more easily and therefore speeding may not be reduced by as much as if speed humps were constructed. However, they are much better for emergency services access which is appropriate considering the recreational use of The Leys.

Financial implications

- The scheme has a cost of £21,500 for construction and £3,255 for a consultation.
- Witney Town Council currently has an EMR of £5,000 towards this project – initially budgeted as 50% of the scheme cost, thought to be £10,000. There is no further budget.
- The County Council will match fund and may be able to increase this although by how much is not known.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and consider: -

1. If the proposed scheme meets the Town Council's aims,
2. If the scheme should be approved by the Town Council,
3. If yes, the potential shortfall in funding; Members may like to consider delegating to Officers negotiation with the County Council on further financial assistance towards the project.