

WITNEY ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2022

REPORT TO THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FROM CHAIR OF TOWN COUNCIL'S PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

CLLR VICKY GWATKIN

This Committee, which was previously known as the Sport & Play Committee, has responsibility for all recreation grounds, parks and public open spaces and sports activities upon any recreational ground under the control of the Town Council.

The Committee is overseeing a number of projects in Witney. The main ones being:

Open Spaces Strategy (OSS)

The OSS has been approved by Council and provides a framework for developing a number of projects and longer-term ambitions for a wide range of open spaces in the town. The committee has been involved in the analysis of what is currently in place, areas for improvement and clear timetabled future strategy.

As part of the OSS, a master plan for the **Leys Recreation Ground** is being developed. A project that is currently being progressed is to significantly improve the skatepark on the Leys.

Play Areas

Work is continuing to improve existing play areas and look at opportunities for new facilities. This has included bringing Park Road playground back in to use after years as unused land.

In addition, new play facilities are due on Quarry Road, King George's, and other sites. Ongoing replacement/upgrade of play facilities will now be part of a rolling council strategy.

Playing Pitches

Working with other local authorities to ensure new Astro turf pitch is in place and other pitches can be brought on-line or improved as soon as possible to support our local teams.

Burwell Playing Fields

Additional changing rooms for Burwell are planned and are currently in the scoping stage with a view to progressing the project soon.

West Witney Sports Ground

Working with consultants to bring about much needed improvements to West Witney facilities. In the interim works continue to maintain the current facilities including resurfacing of the tennis courts.

All these works have largely been made possible by a staffing review, ensuring we have sufficient resources to take forward much needed projects. Control of the Town Council's

grounds maintenance contract will also enable a more dynamic and efficient service of grass cutting and maintenance of its open spaces in the future.

Cllr Vicky Gwatkin, Chair of Parks & Recreation Committee