

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 5 September 2022

Title: Committee Work Plan

Contact Officer: Deputy Town Clerk – Adam Clapton

Background

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Members on the Committee's work plan which includes projects identified as part of the Council's Draft Strategic Plan and Budget Setting agreed at the beginning of 2022, as well as the Open Spaces Strategy adopted in June 2021.

This is also an opportune time to consider any future/additional projects to be put forward for the budget setting cycle (November) to prepare a forward plan for 2023 and beyond, to give Officers time to carry out any required research. Although members should recognise there will be a new Council administration in May 2023.

Current Situation

At the meeting of this committee on 16 May 2022, the following projects were identified as priorities for the ensuing municipal year:

Burwell Hall Changing Rooms

An update on this project is provided in a report to this meeting.

Woodgreen Pitches

Further discussion continues regarding these pitches between the school, clubs, and West Oxfordshire District Council.

Members will be updated on the major project of the West Witney Sports Ground under the later confidential item. However, updates are also provided on other emerging projects under the remit of this Committee:

The Leys & Skate Park

The committee has agreed draft tender documents for redevelopment of the Skate Park and a budget (including s106 contributions) is in place. Further funding streams will need to be explored as part of the project but this ties into the larger aspirations regarding The Leys before it can be progressed. A meeting of the Leys Masterplan Task & Finish Group has been scheduled.

Quarry Road Play Area

Two pieces of new equipment have been procured and are due to be installed imminently.

Leys Speed Humps

Proposed plans (by Oxfordshire County Council) were circulated to residents affected and their comments were fed back to officers. The Town Council awaits final plans and a consultation later in the year. Agreement was received that OCC would cover all remaining funds beyond the Town Council's budget.

Open Spaces Strategy

The Town Clerk, as the Strategic Lead, is currently in the process of updating the Open Spaces Strategy. The majority of projects remain underway and are at varying stages of completion.

IS1 – A report on the review of Play Areas is included as a report to this committee which should inform a replacement and management programme.

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.

Each project plan will include an environmental impact assessment to ensure that the Council's declaration and environmental issues are taken into account and isn't to the detriment of the Council's ambitious target of carbon neutrality by 2028.

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 lot of the projects identified have significant costs attached to them and Officers and Councillors should be mindful of not wasting taxpayer's money – but also ensuring the projects have full cost benefit analysis.

Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and the status of the various projects agreed.

Consideration should also be given to any priorities or forward plan the Committee may wish to put forward for the budget setting cycle for projects in 2023 and beyond.