

Committee: FULL COUNCIL

Date: 19 September 2023

Title: Vehicles on the Recreation Ground

Purpose of Report

For Members to consider the extension of the fencing and bollards around the recreation ground.

Recommendation:

Members to **Resolve:**

- a. To delegate to Officers the installation of a fence and gate extension to the existing fence along Orchard Vale.
- b. To delegate to officers the installation of bollards from those currently in place along The Mead to the fencing to be installed along Orchard Vale.
- c. To vire £7,500 from General Reserves to finance the installation described in a. and b.

Report:

1. Members have been kept informed about the ongoing issues with regards vehicles that have been accessing the recreation ground without permission and in breach of both byelaws and lease terms over recent months.
2. Officers have been unjustly caught up in the furore of the ensuing issues quite unjustly, with the Town Clerk being made aware of personal attacks on him. Members and members of the community have frequently contacted the office about vehicles on the recreation ground. Some of these have had permission but quite a number have not.
3. This issue has been raised by Members at a number of meetings and quite a number have expressed exasperation to officers that it is still continuing.
4. Despite warnings having been given that people have been in breach of byelaws, leases and the law, vehicles have continued to have been driven across the ground during busy school holiday periods.
5. Officers have appealed for common sense to be applied but it would appear that this has not been done or even treated seriously and as such it's their belief that only by fencing off the recreation ground properly will this be brought to an end.

6. In a recent meeting with the police, they asked to be informed immediately of anyone who drives across the recreation ground from the direction of Orchard Vale, as such a practice is both unsafe and in breach of the road traffic act.
7. In order to allow access for vehicles to the recreation ground such as the funfair and stage lorries for events it will be necessary to put in place gates as well as fencing along Orchard Vale.
8. When events take place, they will either be given a key to the bollard for the Wardens driveway, or the padlock will be replaced with a combination lock for the duration of the event. The Cricket Club will be provided with a second key for the padlock which they believe will ease their issues over access.
9. The brewery lorry will be required to enter via that driveway and will not be allowed to drive across the recreation ground and if they do so will be reported to the police.
10. There are sufficient funds to underwrite the alterations within General Reserves and Members are being asked to vire across £7,500 to enable the work to take place in order to protect the community from further risk.
11. Members are being asked to **Resolve:**
 - a. To delegate to Officers the installation of a fence and gate extension to the existing fence along Orchard Vale.
 - b. To delegate to officers the installation of bollards from the those currently in place along The Mead to the fencing to be installed along Orchard Vale.
 - c. To vire £7,500 to from General Reserves to finance the installation described in a. and b.

Mark Tredwin
Town Clerk
September 2023