

Report No. RP00121 Appendix: C Agenda Item: 8	Recreation and Planning Committee 24th February 2021
OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL	
Report Author: A Greaves	Title: Clerk
Subject: Cutts Close Park	
Applicable Strategy: Ensure that Oakham remains a viable and pleasant environment in which to live, work and play	

Background

The office has received correspondence recently from a couple of residents regarding incidents that have happened in Cutts Close park.

Path

From the entrance into the park off Church Street, an electric wheelchair user encountered a camber in the footpath, falling to the left towards the toddlers play area.

The park is the responsibility of the Town Council, the site forms part of the Scheduled Monument area of Oakham Castle. In August 2018 Council resolved the renewal of the park pathways, which included the removal of the existing tarmac which was worn and increased the width with new concrete edgings and a new tarmac surface. This was carried out to a high standard and was subject to Archaeological attendance.

Since receiving notification of the incident, under delegated authority, caution signs have been ordered and three inspections have been carried out, including the contractor and a Highways inspector.

Aggressive behaviour from dogs and an increase of dog fouling

At present there are no byelaws stating dogs must be kept on a lead. There is a Dangerous Dogs Act, but Council would not be responsible for any attack albeit on their land as this does not fall under anti-social behaviour but would then become a police matter.

The park is unmanned so unable to enforce, however to ensure controls to help make sure that everyone can enjoy a clean and safe public place by balancing the needs of dog owners with those of other residents, Council resolve to purchase four signs 250 x 200 on single tubular posts 1500mm tall with the wording:

“Dogs to be always kept under control and owners must clean up after their dogs”

Proposals

- Council note the path incident and once all reports are received, this will come back to full Council for any recommendations or to make any decisions as appropriate
- Council authorise the installation of four dog signs to each entrance of the park
- Council agrees on the wording
- Council approves the expenditure @ £49.00 each sign plus installation and vat
- To authorise the expenditure within the budget heading allocated to Parks and Street Furniture