

<b>Report No. Appendix: Agenda Item:</b>	<b>Council Date of Meeting: 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023</b>
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<b>OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL</b>	
<b>Report Author: Phil Wildbore</b>	<b>Title: Barleythorpe Road Ward councillor</b>
<b>Subject: Rutland County Council Play Area and Bellway Pond adjacent to Centenary Field</b>	
<b>Applicable Strategies:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>To improve the quality of life for residents and businesses in Oakham Town;</b></li> <li>• <b>To protect and enhance amenities in Oakham Town;</b></li> <li>• <b>To preserve and enhance the rural, built and natural environments of Oakham Town.</b></li> </ul>	

Rutland County Council (RCC) have recently adopted the play area adjacent to Centenary Field. This has maintenance gates that can be open by as much as 3 metres that are frequently left unsecured.

There is currently no signage for the play area which should only be accessible from Ellingworth Close.

Within metres of the play area there is a detention pond for surface water storage and a flood protection to downstream areas of Oakham.

The pond is unfenced, has no warning signs. This is understood to be owned by Bellway and is managed by Greenbelt. The detention pond has been confirmed by RCC that they will not be formally adopting it and neither will Anglian Water nor the Environment Agency.

### Issues

1. The play area is readily accessible to Centenary Field. Large groups of older children congregate in the play area especially after dusk. Scattered litter becomes a frequent problem in the play area. (Biffa maintain these bins in the play area for RCC.)
2. The insecure gate provides a route for toddlers to leave and for dogs to enter.

### Proposals

1. For the Town Clerk to contact Rutland County Council to see what measures they are proposing to secure their adopted play area asset and their timeframe for delivery. If a solution is the locking of the maintenance gate should RCC/OTC consider having a new access gate directly from Centenary Field that doesn't face the pond. This would make it more accessible to wider Oakham residents using Centenary Field.
2. This area of 'Centenary Field' has CCTV coverage and would also apply to the autumn 2023 tree planting. Could the Town Clerk raise in his discussions signage for the existence of this CCTV and consider installing signage at the play area (RCC) and around the Barleythorpe Road fencing (OTC) to act as a general deterrent.
3. Could the Town Clerk check on the current CCTV usage and monitoring, especially now that much improvement works have been achieved in the area of mature trees on the western fringe of Centenary Field, and check if RCC are planning/implementing any improvements to coverage for their camera near LIDL.
4. Could the Town Clerk check with RCC (Harry Ayton) on the RCC grounds maintenance frequency and specifications for the play area.

