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| Report To: | Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee | Date: | 10 February 2025 |
| Contact Officer: | Paula Harrison | | |
| Subject: | Fencing Report | | |

1. Fencing

- 1.1 At the inception of the Parish Council, the original Deed which governed the role of the Parish Council in the management of public open spaces, contained no reference to responsibilities for fencing.
- 1.2 Over the last seven years, Swindon Borough Council has given inconsistent responses to issues relating to gates and fencing. As a result, the Parish Team have undertaken low level maintenance on a number of fences and gates where it has been sensible action to take – whether or not it is our responsibility to do so. Recently this included chestnut paling along Hay Lane.
- 1.3 There are a number of fence issues arising and the Parish Council will need to consider whether it will assume responsibility in the absence of Swindon Borough Council agreeing to complete work

Sites include

- Shaw Forest Park
- Hay Lane border
- Hay Lane old road to Sudeley Way
- Corton Crescent

2. Costings/Financial Implications

- 2.1 As there is no requirement for the Parish Council to repair fencing, there is no planned expenditure for replacement. There is a budget of £2,000 for fencing in the 2024-25 budget of which around £1000 is remaining.

3. Policy Implications

- 3.1 The Parish Council must be mindful that be creating and installing barriers adjacent to the public highway that it may also be creating new liabilities. For that reason, it is recommended that the Parish Council adds or replaces fencing on occasions where it is in the interests of the management of public open spaces that is the primary factor.

Swindon Borough Council is the landowner and the Highways Authority and should therefore retain responsibility that relate to pedestrian or vehicle safety.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 That this Committee considers the information in this report and agrees a policy statement for the repair and replacement of existing or installation of new fencing
- 4.2 That this Committee notes the recommendation to complete work on fencing as detailed in this report.