

Subject:	Access to Green Spaces	
From:	Claire Wilding	
Date:	21/5/23	
For information and decision		
Summary of decisions or actions requested: Some issues have come up with the proposals for improving access. The Council is asked to consider whether we should pause this project now and revisit it when there is a clearer demand. We could still go ahead with the new noticeboard for Centenary Wood, applying under other grant schemes.		
Financial implications: None at this stage. We have set aside £1000K for this project, and some of this could still be used as matched funding for a new noticeboard.		
Communications: NA		

When I last updated the Town Council, we were trying to get agreement from OCC and BBOWT to make some changes to access around Ticknell Field and Centenary Wood. Since then there have been a few developments.

OCC has given agreement to place a new noticeboard in Centenary Wood.

We decided not to go ahead with changes to the access between Centenary Wood and Blenheim Farm Nature Reserve, because concerns had been raised by a resident about recurring problems with dirt bikes being ridden through the reserve and on neighbouring land. It was felt that opening up the access into the wood could make the problem worse.

We had intended to go ahead with removal of the kissing gate between Ticknell Lane and the field, to make access to the playpark and skatepark easier. However, we now have a new issue with a dirt bike being ridden into the field and Centenary Wood from Ticknell Piece side. So this does not feel like the right time to be opening up access further.

I was intending to apply for a grant from TOE for this work, but unfortunately they will only fund signage if it is part of a wider project to improve access. We could however try other funding sources.

We had also intended to improve access at Nine Acres, by making a new pedestrian access next to the car gate onto Enstone Road. However it feels like we have a number of more urgent issues to deal with related to Nine Acres (e.g. play park repairs and replacement, contract with Sports and Social Club, tennis court resurfacing).

My proposal is that we should pause the access project now as there does not seem to be a major demand, and if other proposals come along from the LCWIP we could think again

about applying to TOE to cover some or all of this work. Instead we should try other funding avenues to get a new noticeboard at Centenary Wood, such as Wilderness fund or Blenheim.