

Meeting	Parks & Open Spaces Committee
Date	2 nd September 2025
Report Title	Open Space Adjacent To Voyager Drive Play Area
Agenda Reference	15
Author	Laura Cutter, Deputy Clerk, HR & Services Manager

Officers Recommendation

1. To note the email and consider whether the open space could benefit from vehicle barriers.
2. To escalate the matter to Swindon Borough Council for implementation.

Email

I am writing to raise an urgent concern regarding the large green space directly in front of my home in Voyager Drive.

Last night, several vehicles were parked on the grass. While I cannot confirm their intentions, the unrestricted vehicle access to this land leaves it highly vulnerable to unauthorised encampments. Given the size and location of the space, it would be an attractive site for such use, and it is directly opposite residential properties, including mine.

At present, there are no preventative measures in place, no boulders, posts, fencing, or other barriers, to stop cars or caravans from driving onto the green. This is a significant security gap that needs immediate attention to avoid a situation where action can only be taken after the fact.

I strongly request that this matter be prioritised and that appropriate physical restrictions are installed without delay. Proactive prevention will be far less disruptive and costly than dealing with the consequences of an unauthorised encampment on this site.

I look forward to confirmation of the measures that will be put in place.

Investigation

The open space is adjacent to the properties and Voyager Drive play area. There are vehicle barriers on the footbridges and kerb edges around the perimeter of the open space, but there is no fencing or barrier to prevent vehicle access.

Swindon Borough Council and North Swindon Police have measures in place to respond quickly where necessary, this would be outside of the Parish Council's remit. The open space is maintained as per the Transfer of Services lease for the play area, but the land ownership remains with Swindon Borough Council.

This hasn't been an issue previously, but given the above email, the Committee is asked whether it should be cautious and consider requesting that Swindon Borough Council install barrier to prevent vehicle access?

