



**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE
30 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Agenda No

6

Responsible Officer: Mike Cox – Outdoor Recreation & Assets Manager

**UPDATE ON RECREATIONAL ASSETS, THEIR USE & MAINTENANCE IN LIGHT OF
THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

Purpose of the Report

To receive an update into the Council's Recreational Assets, including how they are being used and the maintenance regimes in light of the current crisis and the various Government Guidelines Officers are working to.

QUARRY

The Town Council currently has a ban on non-sporting activities on Council land that may attract mass gatherings.

Any activity now has to follow the COVID 19 Secure Safer Public Spaces – Urban Centres and Green Spaces Guidelines.

The Quarry currently has a high number of visitors using the grass areas as a safe haven and allowing them to maintain social distancing whilst staying within family groups.

It was felt that to allow an event to take over a large portion of the Quarry, would restrict where residents can sit, and therefore increase the risk of possible transmission and complaints. Not only have all events been cancelled, but we have had to turn away requests for bouncy castles, children's parties and people performing on the bandstand. As we or they could not guarantee social distancing or prevent mass gatherings.

The Police are paying regular visits to the Quarry to check guidelines are being complied with. Trading Standards and Public Protection also monitoring social media for advertised events, so we can prevent them from happening.

The Café and canoe hire are now in operation again subject to compliance with guidelines and they themselves completing a COVID Risk Assessment and making adjustments to the way they operate, including barriers, hand sanitising, one way systems and ensuring queues do not block walkways.

Earlier in the year problems were encountered with litter as cafes and pubs could open for takeaways only and the Quarry was the venue that they were all drawn to. This is something we shall continue to monitor in light of current threats of increased measures to prevent the spread of the virus. This caused issues not only with the vast quantities of litter but also anti-social behaviour such as urinating in a public place.

As more cafes and pubs open, the problem has diminished. This will be reviewed in light of any changes Government make.



SPORTING ACTIVITIES

We are now able to host certain sports again providing we have a copy of the Governing Body Covid 19 Secure Guidelines, Covid 19 Risk Assessment and Track and Trace being in place. This includes no car sharing, sanitiser being available, no use of changing rooms, no sharing equipment, anything touched regularly disinfected, social distancing maintained, own first aid kits provided etc.

Monkmoor Recreation Ground is up and running with 94 % of the hours available on the Astro turf being utilised, however we do have 6 hours being utilised out of core hours via the key scheme or youth provision.

The Archery Club has stayed on site having been relocated from Radbrook Recreation Ground, and they are struggling to access an indoor facility over the winter period, however we may be able to accommodate them under floodlights subject to weather conditions.

Tennis has proven to be extremely popular assisted by the Key scheme fees waived this year. Details of applicants for the grass courts have been retained so we hope to see an increase in fee paying players for next year.

Croquet and Boling Clubs are complying with their governing bodies Guidelines. Due to number restrictions little use is being made of either. Grounds staff have extended their season.

Sunday League football is to resume at the end of September, again subject to all the necessary guidance being followed. Teams using our sites are not allowed to access changing rooms, however access has been granted to the disabled toilet facilities only.

Frankwell has been up and running and has been busy with canoeing, cricket, ladies cricket and junior cricket development and activities. Coaching was restricted to 5 youngsters to 1 coach and spread out to maintain social distancing.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Report be noted