



CURRENTLY CLOSED SERVICES

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 52/20

13 JULY 2020

The purpose of this Report is to ask Members to determine which of the Town Council's currently closed services can be re-opened.

No. DETAILS

1) BACKGROUND

- a) The Town Council's currently closed services are: the Outdoor Gym in Ventnor Park, the Esplanade's Paddling Pool, the 31 Bus and the Beach Safety project.
- b) The Assets & Services Working Group (ASG) has considered each of these in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and the related government guidance at dedicated meetings on 1 July and 10 July.
- c) Its recommendations and related considerations are included in section 3 – 6 of this Report.

2) RISK ASSESSMENT

- a) Although the government has stated that playgrounds and outdoor gyms could open from 4 July and outdoor pools from 11 July, the caveat is that *each venue, including council-owned sports facilities, will make their own decisions about when their facilities are ready to open and can be operated safely.*
- b) In particular, a covid-19 related Risk Assessment is required and Nick Cox, in his role as the Town Council's Health and Safety Officer, provided a detailed framework for such a document for discussion at the ASG Meeting of 9 July where it was welcomed and endorsed.
- c) The framework applies to both the Outdoor Gym and the Pool and it was arranged that Nick Cox and Councillor Colm Watling would complete the scoring assessments on Sunday with a view to having the information available for this meeting of the Town Council.
- d) In order to give Members time to familiarise themselves with the framework a copy of it is supplied with this Report; the completed document will be available on the day of the meeting.

3) OUTDOOR GYM

- a) The ASG recommends that this facility be re-opened when the necessary covid-19 adjustments are in place as required by the government guidance and the completed Risk Assessment.
- b) In addition to signage (the government guidance includes advice on content), route marking and provision of hand sanitiser, it may also require taking some machines out of commission in the interests of enabling social distancing.
- c) The Town Council's staff will clean the equipment three times daily alongside their cleaning of the Ventnor Park Toilets.

4) PADDLING POOL

- a) The ASG recommends that this facility be re-opened when the necessary covid-19 adjustments are in place as required by the government guidance and the completed Risk Assessment,
- b) This will require detailed signage (the government guidance includes advice on content), the provision of hand sanitiser and the re-engagement of our Paddling Pool specialist staff to resume daily emptying, cleaning and refilling of the Pool along with the introduction of the required chemicals in the advised concentration.
- c) The completed Risk Assessment may identify other elements.
- d) The adjacent tables will also need cleaning regularly.

5) 31 Bus`

- a) The ASG does not recommend that this service be re-started unless the operator commits to providing more covid-19 safeguards than have currently been offered.
- b) In addition to the small size of the vehicle – it is just 1.7 metres wide – its typical user is in the high risk category.

6) BEACH SAFETY

- a) The ASG does not recommend that this service be re-started this season.
- b) The First Aid Hut is too small to allow social distancing and the offer of First Aid would require staff to use full PPE.
- c) Keeping a member of staff on the beach for 6 hours a day, 7 days a week would seriously deplete the cleaning time available for the public toilets and outdoor gym.
- d) It is proposed to provide sizable signage on the front and sides of the First Aid Hut with the phone numbers of the relevant professional services.

7) RECOMMENDATION

Members are recommended to:

- i) agree to re-open the Outdoor Gym as soon as the required adjustments identified in section 3 of this Report are in place;
 - ii) agree to re-open the Paddling Pool as soon as the required adjustments identified in section 4 of this Report are in place;
 - iii) agree not to restart the 31 Bus service at this time;
 - iv) agree not to operate the Beach Safety project this season;
 - v) ask the Assets and Services Working Group to oversee the adjustments necessary for the re-opening of the Outdoor Gym and Paddling Pool; and
 - vi) authorise its Clerk, advised by the Assets and Services Working Group, to finalise and implement the re-opening of the Outdoor Gym and the Paddling Pool.
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