

Re-starting working parties for the Green Team in Whitchurch-on-Thames - a proposal

Background

Working parties were paused from the 21st March 2020 due to Covid-19

Why re-start working parties?

- working parties allow all important social contact and support from fellow village residents
 - they foster the sense of community
 - they help look after the green spaces in our village which have had more use and have become even more important for mental health during lockdown
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Government Guidelines (as of 17th June 2020)

- Key guidelines in relation to meeting others in outdoors spaces appear on the government website here; <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/meeting-people-from-outside-your-household#meeting-outdoors-with-people-you-do-not-live-with-or-are-not-in-your-support-bubble>
- Key points in relation to working parties are;
 - You are allowed to meet in groups of up to 6 people from different households outdoors
 - You can meet people in both public or private outdoor spaces, such as gardens, yards or roof terraces – as long as you maintain social distancing at all times with people who are not in your household or support bubble.
 - You should not go indoors. If you do need to use the toilet or are passing through to access someone's garden, avoid touching surfaces and if you use the toilet wash your hands thoroughly, wipe down surfaces, use separate or paper towels and wash or dispose of them safely after use.
 - If you no longer want to remain outdoors, you should go home. Do not go into garages, sheds or cabins – these are all indoor areas and where the risk of transmission is higher.
 - You should not be sharing garden equipment with people outside of your household or your support bubble because of the risk of transmission. You could bring your own or if you have to use chairs, for example, you should wipe them down carefully with household cleaner before and after use.
 - You should not pass each other food or drink unless you live together or are in a support bubble together. You should not use plates or utensils that someone from

another house has touched – either bring your own or ensure you have thoroughly cleaned them before using. Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly for at least 20 seconds and use disposable towels if possible.

- You should continue to avoid using public transport and should cycle, walk or drive wherever possible.

Recommendations for working parties

Based on Government Advice an approach for working parties to re-start could be as follows;

- You must not attend a working party if you or any members of your household have displayed symptoms of covid-19 in the last 14 days
- A maximum of 6 people working in one working party
- The working party organiser will ask those who plan to attend to let them know so participate numbers can be kept to 6. If more than 6 people arrive during the working party they will be asked not to take part, or given an individual task in a different part of the village to do
- Tasks to be distributed between people to enable them to work in separate spaces to each other and maintain social distancing
- 2m social distancing must be maintained between all people in the working party at all times
- All working parties must take place outdoors, and no one must enter homes or other enclosed spaces
- Every individual must bring their own tools/equipment and not share anything with others
- No food or drink to be shared or provided. Bring your own if required
- Wash hands thoroughly before and after the working party
- Encourage attendees not to use public transport to attend the working party