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Meeting: Full Town Council, Item11.13

Date: 16th March 2021

Author: Town Clerk

Subject: Return of Junior Parkrun to Collett Park, and Parkrun when they make such a request

1.0 Purpose of report

- 1.1 This request would normally need to be presented to the Collett Park Management committee, but is presented here due to timeframes. Collett Park Management Committee, at its meeting in 20th October 2020 agreed that Parkrun could not resume without them seeking permission of the council.
- 1.2 To confirm that Junior Parkrun, and senior Parkrun when they make such a request, can resume.

2.0 Background information

- 2.1 Due to the pandemic Parkrun had to be cancelled along with everything else. The road map out of lockdown now allows for the return of outdoor sports events from 29th March 2021. The extract from their request is here:

Since last summer we have worked closely with Sport England, firstly to develop our [COVID-19 Framework](#) for the safe delivery of parkrun events, and then to present it to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport (DCMS), and Deputy Chief Medical Officer (Jenny Harries), for review. Faced with growing public health problems and inequalities, including amongst children, it will be important to create opportunities for people to be physically active outdoors.

Towards the end of last year, the health and wellbeing justifications and operating principles of our proposal to reopen junior parkrun events across England was circulated to local authorities

and directors of public health via the Local Government Association. Hopefully you will have had the chance to review these, if not then please find further details [here](#).

Recent evidence published by Sport England and the Youth Sport Trust suggests that there has been a profound decline in children's physical activity levels over the course of this year. Also, that pre-existing health inequalities have increased, with those from most disadvantaged communities being disproportionately impacted. Our own surveys support these figures, finding that 75% of children have fewer opportunities to be active, and 82% of parents would bring their children to junior parkrun in January. We also know that our volunteer community wishes to return, with three-quarters of those surveyed expressing a desire to come back.

Please note that in order for an event to return on Sunday the 11th of April, we would need to be in receipt of landowner permission by Thursday the 25th of March. After that date, the earliest possible start date becomes the Sunday two weeks after the Thursday, so Thursday the 1st of April for Sunday the 18th for example.

2.2 To note that Parkrun has not made a request to the town council, but it assumed that they operate in the same manner. To also note that the hand sanitiser station is available to the public and that if the toilets are open during Parkrun, they are receiving an enhanced clean.

3.0 Financial Information

3.1 There are no financial implication

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 To agree to the return of Junior Parkrun to Collett Park, and when the request is made, to agree to the return of Parkrun, in line with government regulations for the safe management of such events (risk assessments limitations on numbers etc)