

West Swindon Parish Council

Services Statement – Covid-19 Pandemic

West Swindon Parish Council delivers a range of services through its agreement with Swindon Borough Council Streetsmart acting as its contractor.

The safety of the public and the Parish Council's workforce is of paramount importance, thus. It is imperative that during the pandemic the Parish Council follows the guidance set out by the Government.

As a result, these steps are being followed:

- the Parish Office is closed – office staff are working from home
- public meetings are taking place remotely as advertised on the Parish Council website
- outdoor play and recreation sites have been sealed off using temporary barriers, no entry signs have been distributed and notices of the closures promoted through social media
- contractor staff who need to be shielded from exposure to the virus due to underlying health conditions are asked to remain at home
- other contractor staff who are well and able to travel to work, and, can observe the advice and guidance in relation to social distancing throughout the working day are asked to attend work to support the delivery of essential services
- the contractor will employ appropriate contingencies in the event of machinery breakdown or accident being mindful of government guidance

The Parish Council deems essential services to be those that

- ensure the local environment is clean, safe and accessible
- enables local services can be resumed effectively after the period of restriction

For this purpose, the Contractor will be asked to provide the following, subject to staff and vehicle availability:

- regular inspection of play areas for removal of litter, detritus and to renew temporary signs and barriers (minimum twice weekly)
- regular emptying of public bins (minimum twice weekly)
- a minimised approach to grass cutting across the Parish that provides an infrequent cut (in excess of the three weekly cycle) but sufficiently frequent to allow existing machinery to cope with the growth at hand
- intermittent cleaning of the public realm (eg. removal of graffiti and washing down street furniture, subway walls, bins and benches)
- intermittent removal of flytipping – where this is likely to attract repeat behaviour or high volumes of accumulated waste
- removal of needles/broken glass

The Parish Council will promote messaging to the effect that outdoor staff should not be approached and social distancing should be respected. The Parish Council will ask the Contractor to manage the deployment of staff in ways that are fair and allows for the minimum of travel and maximisation of the resources available. The Parish Council will review the deployment of staff with its Contractor on a weekly basis.