

Watchet Town Council Plans for re-opening facilities

Watchet Town Council (WTC) takes its responsibilities very seriously in relation to the re-opening of facilities as COVID 19 lockdown starts to ease. The Council will continue to follow central government guidelines and legislative requirements for assessing risks before opening facilities in a phased way.

Current recommendations are that staff continue to work and provide the Council's services from home wherever possible, so the Council Office remains closed, but staff are contactable via Sarah Reed, Town Clerk on:

townclerk@watchettowncouncil.org Telephone: 07534 363237 (the landline number 01984 633344 will be diverted to the Clerk's mobile so the public can still use this number if they don't have access to a mobile phone). Grounds staff continue to undertake provision of services working outside.

Watchet Town Council has already successfully reviewed and strengthened procedures and mitigation measures to protect the public and staff, allowing Harbour Road toilets to reopen from 22nd June, and provide a much-needed service for public health.

Similarly, there are plans to re-start Watchet Wednesday Markets on Watchet Esplanade from 15th July 2020, having similarly strengthened COVID protocols and completed a satisfactory risk assessment.

Although playgrounds and outdoor gyms are permitted to open when they can be made COVID secure, WTC is working on updated operating procedures for protection of users and staff. Although they will remain closed for the present, Watchet Town Council is aiming to have these identified and in place in time for the commencement of the school holidays from July 17th, 2020.

Regarding the Watchet Community Centre, although some limited activities would have been permitted, many involving exercise, play, performances and close contact in an indoor setting are still prohibited, so in line with government agency guidelines Watchet Town Council will be keeping the centre closed at the present time.

The Town Council is committed to properly risk assessing each activity and following further guidelines as we all find ways to safely exit lockdown without the risk of second infection spikes.



Sarah Reed
Town Clerk

