

Lapley, Stretton and Wheaton Aston Parish Council



OPEN SPACES POLICY

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Open Spaces Policy September 2017

OPEN SPACES POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT: It is the Policy of Lapley, Stretton and Wheaton Aston Parish Council (LSWAPC) to protect all open space owned by the Parish Council and ensure a safe and well managed environment for all users

KEY PRINCIPLES : LSWAPC–

- Recognises that the provision of open space and their design and layout are important for play and recreation and are important in contributing to the quality of the environment
- will build into the Council's Risk Assessment procedures clear processes for the management of Parish Council owned Open Spaces, including play equipment and trees
- provide and maintain safe and healthy working conditions, equipment and systems of work for all employees and the Council's contractors
- provide such information, training and supervision, as they need for this purpose
- give a high level of commitment to health and safety and will comply with all statutory requirements.

WHO DOES THE POLICY APPLY TO: The Policy applies to all users of Parish Council owned Open Spaces, employees and Councillors of Lapley, Stretton and Wheaton Aston Parish Council and Council contractors

REVIEW OF THE POLICY: Subject to any new legislation or changes in case law which require immediate amendment; or any changes in the needs of the Parish Council, the Open Spaces Policy will be reviewed annually.

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1. AREAS OF OPEN RECREATIONAL SPACE 1.1. Open Spaces • Marston Road Field Open Space • 1.2. Play Areas • Marston Road Play Area • Marston Road Skate Park Area • Primrose Play Area • Broadholes Lane Play Area

2. PROHIBITIONS ON THE USE OF OPEN SPACES AND PLAY AREAS: 2.1. LSWAPC seeks to protect the physical environment of the Open Spaces, the wildlife and the public by putting into place, prohibitions on activities, which may cause damage to the Open Spaces and the public 2.2. The following activities are prohibited, unless the permission of LSWAPC has been obtained in writing –

- The removal of any barrier, post, seat or any other item provided for use on the Open Spaces and Play Areas or for the maintenance of them
- The erection of any barrier, post, ride, swing or any other structure
- The removal of any plants, trees or soil from the Open Spaces
- The killing, injuring, taking or disturbing of any animal; and no person shall engage in hunting, shooting or the setting of traps or the laying of snares
- The turning out of or permitting any animal to graze on the Open Spaces
- The erection of a tent or the use of a vehicle, caravan or other structure for the purpose of camping
- The lighting of fires or the disposal of a match or any other thing likely to cause a fire
- The use of fireworks or other pyrotechnic devices
- Engaging in the sport of archery
- The throwing of or the striking of a hard cricket ball with or without a bat
- The playing of golf, including the driving, chipping or pitching of a hard golf ball
- The holding of any event, be it charitable, commercial or private, without seeking the consent of LSWAPC beforehand
- That there be no driving or other use of any motor vehicle, motor cycle or other mechanically propelled vehicle
- The depositing or dumping of litter or other waste materials of any description

3. DAMAGE TO OPEN SPACES: 3.1. Any damage or faults to items on the Open Spaces or any other related issues should be reported as soon as reasonably practicable to the Parish Office at LSWAPC, F7 Staffordshire Business Hub, Wolverhampton Road Codsall, South Staffordshire, WV8 1PE 01902 842556

4. PLAY AREAS: 4.1. LSWAPC seeks to provide Play Areas to a high standard to all children visiting the Play Areas. 4.2. All Parish Council owned Play areas are inspected as follows –

- Twice weekly on Mondays and Fridays – by visual inspection looking at equipment
- October/November of each year – by The Play Inspection Company – operational inspection

4.3. Gates into the Play Areas should be kept shut at all times 4.4. Dogs, with the exception of guide dogs, are not permitted in any of the Play Areas 4.5. The play equipment provided by LSWAPC is suitable for children up to the age of 12 years at Marston Field Play Area and 8 years at Primrose Play Area. Users and visitors to the Play Areas can obtain more specific information on the various facilities available, by contacting the Parish Office, tel 01902 842556 4.6. The safety of children whilst using and visiting the Play Areas is the responsibility of the child's parent, guardian or carer. 4.7. Any damage or faults with the play equipment, fencing, gates or other items in the Play Areas; or any other related issues should be reported as soon as reasonably practicable to the Parish Office at LSWAPC, F7 Staffordshire Business Hub, Wolverhampton Road Codsall, South Staffordshire, WV8 1PE, 01902 842556

5. OTHER AREAS OF OPEN SPACE – specific areas 5.1. Broadholes Lane Natural Play Area Reserve is owned by the Parish Council. Users of this area should take care at times of heavy or prolonged

periods of rain. The site can get waterlogged, with water forming a pool. Visitors are advised to wear suitable waterproof shoes and keep to the mowed grass paths.

Broadholes Lane Nature Play area is a designated area for children aged 5 years and younger. The safety of children whilst using and visiting the Play Areas is the responsibility of the child's parent, guardian or carer

Reviewed 6th September 2018

Next review September 2020