

# COVID MANAGEMENT PLAN – BUSINESSES AND OPEN SPACES (MAY 2020)

## Introduction

Harrow has 84 open parks and spaces, as well 33 allotment areas. **Appendix 1** gives an overall outline but in summary:

- Unlimited exercise by people, and can travel to anywhere in England to carry this out
- Sunbathing, sitting and some sports allowed in parks but social distancing must be in place
- Golf, angling and tennis allowed alone or with one other person, who can be from a different household (but 2m rule applies).
- Green gyms and playgrounds remain closed
- Two people from different households can meet in open space 2m apart
- Fines from Police increasing to initial £100 from £60 that increases on each offence to a maximum of £3200 per offence per person

In terms of Businesses, **Appendix 2** gives an overall outline but in summary:

- People can return to work only if they cannot work from home and their work is one that is allowed to be open
- Only essential retail allowed, most prohibitions remain, and social distancing must be in place in any business that is open.
- H&S Advice in place for workplaces and social distancing and risk assessments must be in place for staff and customers
- Prohibitions remain in place for use where non-essential businesses are found

## Proposed Plan

- The intent of the action plan is to keep all parks and allotments OPEN but minimise the risks associated with them. Therefore the following approach will be applied:
  - Parks and Open spaces are there to facilitate exercise but not for gatherings (e.g. football for same household not groups of different ones)
  - Highly visible presence by Police, Council staff, allotment lead tenants and friends group and light touch enforcement, with emphasis on education and engagement
  - Signage on the entrance of most parks around social distancing and extra signage is in place to emphasis rules and banned areas (especially play areas and gyms) and will be reiterated through regular social media communications
  - All playgrounds and gym equipment remain taped off
  - Council tennis courts to reopen but basketball courts to remain closed as they are team sports
  - Police provided with all parks, spaces and allotment so can task into their patrols, including RAG status, on daily basis
  - All parks checked to ensure measures still in place daily
  - All main business districts will be proactively checked daily

## Resources

Resources are allocated on a daily rota, with a week done in advance including the weekend. This rota also includes details of issues arising from parks and other spaces, and is provided as part of the Bronze update every morning by 9am

Officers will be proactively targeting hot spot business and park areas, and be in a position to react to any issue that arises. Additionally Police will continue with resources on Borough both normal (Safer Neighbourhood Teams) and extra bronze patrols.. The Bronze Group dial (Harrow, Barnet, Brent, Police and LFB) in will continue each morning (except Sundays) and will allow intel to be shared amongst the Police and Council, and tasking to vary dependant on need

Officers from Community & Public Protection, Kingdom and CEOs will be present every day, monitoring all parks and concentrating on main sites. This will be supported by:

- ✓ Park User Groups and Allotment Leads –have presence in the relevant parks
- ✓ Council staff (CEO and parks officers etc) that will be on standby in case of any closure.

- ✓ 9 volunteers from the Council volunteer hub in place and helping with eyes and ears across Borough

## **Communications**

All teams will feed into a central whatsapp group to collate, triage and task resources as needed. Any large gatherings or immediate problems will be reported directly to the Police Bronze Command for Police to attend. All of this is co-ordinated by a designated Manager for the day and is set out at the bottom of the staffing schedule on the spreadsheet.

Communications provide proactive messaging over social media in the lead up to, and continuing over, weekends. They also form part of the whatsapp group so can feed in intel from social media, as well as get real time messaging back out to residents

MPS will lead on “action based” communications and we will share, retweet and update our website on a required basis.

A status report will be provided to Harrow Gold Command every morning at 09:30(BCU normally meet at 08:30) then at noon and finally at 16:00 this can then be cascaded to all Councillors and other groups as Gold require

## **Facility closures**

While the intention is to avoid any park or allotment closure, contingencies are in place to close if needed. This is not likely to be a blanket closure, but those that go beyond the control of officers and Police to ensure safety. To this end, all parks that can be closed have been identified and relevant locks / chains made available.

For those that have no gates / fencing, contingency plans are being put in place with Trimlock and relevant companies to step in and put temporary fencing and secure sites. This includes if only certain aspects (e.g. gym equipment etc) needs securing

Officers on site will be tasked to that park to assist in clearing it and securing it temporarily until more permanent measures are put in place.

In addition to deployed team and on call team of officers is being put in place for the weekend in to come and assist, and will remain on standby but not attend site unless needed.

Closures will be based on risk / evidence for each park, and any closures will take place based on this RAG status to ensure the highest risk parks are made safe quickly. Only 4 high risk parks cannot be shut through conventional means, and of those that have shown potential issues in the last 2 weeks only 1 has no lockable gates.

This plan has been tested with the closing of Chandos Rec on Easter Weekend, and works.

In terms of businesses, a clear process for compliance has been put in place, again being engage, explain, encourage and then enforce. This includes use of prohibition notices under covid regulations, as well as use of existing health and safety powers


## **Park Car Park Closures (Appendix 3)**







Car parks associated with parks will remain closed to help facilitate the Government and Council push towards people walking and cycling more. Should people need to drive, parking restrictions in nearby roads are still suspended.

This push towards a new era of greener and healthier travel will also form part of the communications plan

## APPENDIX 1 – PARKS AND TRAVEL RULES

Some of the rules about what you can do have changed – this is why we are asking everyone to Stay Alert

 **As long as you stay 2 metres away from people outside your household, from today you are allowed to do the following:**

-  spend time outdoors - for example sitting and enjoying the fresh air, picnicking, or sunbathing
-  meet one other person from a different household outdoors
-  exercise outdoors as often as you wish
-  use outdoor sports courts or facilities, such as tennis or basketball courts, or golf courses - with members of your household OR one other person outside your household
-  go to a garden centre
-  Estate agents' offices can open; Viewings - both virtual and in person - are permitted

 **As with before, you cannot:**

-  visit friends and family in their homes
-  exercise in an indoor sports court, gym or leisure centre, or go swimming in a public pool
-  use an outdoor gym or playground
-  visit a private or ticketed attraction
-  meet more than one person outside your household, except for a few specific exceptions set out in law (for work, funerals, house moves, supporting the vulnerable, in emergencies and to fulfil legal obligations)

**If you or someone from your household is showing coronavirus symptoms, you must self isolate. This is critical to staying safe and saving lives.**

**You should also continue to wash your hands more often, for 20 seconds, and follow the guidance on hygiene.**

**STAY ALERT › CONTROL THE VIRUS › SAVE LIVES**

## APPENDIX 2 – BUSINESS OPENING DECISIONS

IF CONDUCTING ONE OF GREEN AREAS CAN OPEN BUT CANNOT RETAIL OR HIRE ANYTHING ELSE APART FROM ESSENTIAL ELEMENT

E.g.

M&S can sell food but not clothes  
Café can sell takeaway but not sell mugs etc

IF CONDUCTING ONE OF RED AREAS CANNOT OPEN

IF CONDUCTING ONE OF AMBER AREAS CAN TRADE BUT WITH RESTRICTIONS

E.g.

Car washes (with social distancing and no internal cleaning)  
Phone repair shop but no selling retail items

### OPEN

- food retailers, including food markets, supermarkets, convenience stores and corner shops
- off licences and licensed shops selling alcohol (including breweries)
- pharmacies (including nondispensing pharmacies) and chemists
- newsagents
- homeware, building supplies and hardware stores
- petrol stations
- car repair and MOT services
- bicycle shops
- taxi or vehicle hire businesses
- banks, building societies, credit unions, short term loan providers, savings clubs, cash points and undertakings which by way of business operate currency exchange offices, transmit money by any means or cash cheques which are made payable to the customer
- post offices
- funeral directors
- laundrettes and dry cleaners
- dental services, opticians, audiology services, chiropody, chiropractors, osteopaths and other medical or health services, including services relating to mental health
- veterinary surgeons and pet shops
- agricultural supplies shops
- storage and distribution facilities, including delivery drop off or collection points, where the facilities are in the premises of a business included in this part
- car parks
- public toilets
- Garden Centres
- Outdoor courts

### CLOSED

- Any premise selling food & drink for consumption on premise (except hospital, work, care home, school, homeless premise or prison)
- Restaurant, Bars and public houses (unless doing takeaway only, preferably delivery)
- Cinemas, Theatres, Nightclubs
- Bingo halls, Concert Halls, Casinos
- Museums, Galleries, Auction Houses
- Betting Shops
- Spas, Nail, Beauty, Hair salons and Barbers
- Massage Parlours, Tattoo and Piercing Parlours
- Skating Rinks, Indoor Fitness, Studios, Gyms, Swimming Pools, Bowling Alleys, Amusement Arcades or soft play areas or other indoor leisure centres / facilities
- Indoor and outdoor funfairs
- Playground, indoor sports courts and outdoor gyms
- Outdoor markets (except for stalls selling food)
- Car Showrooms

### ALSO:

- Any tables and chairs adjacent to food business (even if not provided by the business) is to be treated as part of the premise and not used

### ALLOWED

- Any service not listed under Closed, but cannot offer any retail aspect unless meets green criteria
- Retail premises not allowing customers in premise but taking remote orders and arranging deliveries / collections (e.g. Argos)
- Estate Agents and Letting Agents can now be open, and house viewing and house moves

### RULES

- MUST ENSURE SOCIAL DISTANCING
- MUST HAVE RISK ASSESSMENT
- STAFF TO BE PROTECTED
- HAND WASHING AND CLEANING

**APPENDIX 3 – PARKS CAR PARK**

<b>PARKS, PLAYING FIELDS AND OPEN SPACES</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>PAST ISSUES</b>	<b>Playground</b>	<b>Gyms</b>	<b>Courts</b>	<b>Car Park</b>	<b>Car Park Lockable</b>
CHANDOS RECREATION GROUND	Camrose Avenue, Edgware	Gatherings				1	Y
HARROW RECREATION GROUND	Hindes Road, Harrow					1	Y
HARROW WEALD RECREATION GROUND	High Road, Harrow Weald					2	Y
HEADSTONE MANOR RECGROUND	Pinner View, Harrow					2	Y
KENTON RECREATION GROUND	Carlton Avenue, Kenton					2	Y
MONTESOLE PLAYING FIELDS	Uxbridge Road, Pinner	Gatherings				1	Y
ROXETH RECREATION GROUND	Kingsley Road, Sth Harrow	Gatherings				1	Y
WEST HARROW RECREATION GROUND	Wilson Gdns, West Harrow					1	Y
PINNER MEMORIAL PARK	West End Lane, Pinner					2	Y
ROXBOURNE PARK	Cannon Lane, Pinner					1	Y
SADDLERS MEAD	Clonard Way, Hatch End					1	Y
SHAFTSBURY PLAYING FIELDS	Grimsdyke Road, Hatch End					1	Y
STANMORE RECREATION GROUND	Stanmore Hill, Stanmore	Play Equip use				1	Y
HATCH END PLAYING FIELDS	Uxbridge Road, Hatch End					1	Y
STANMORE COMMON	Warren Lane, Stanmore					1	Y
WOOD FARM	Wood Lane, Stanmore					1	Y