

COVID MANAGEMENT PLAN – BUSINESSES AND OPEN SPACES (JUNE 2020)

Introduction

Government has announced that from 1st June, groups of 6 people from different households can gather (2m social distancing) including in parks and gardens. With the previous lifting of restrictions around exercise (including some sports, sunbathing and picnics allowed) and all but outside gyms and playgrounds allowed to be open, a new approach is to be taken. This also takes into account the opening of some businesses on the 1st June and the majority of non-essential retail from 15th June, and more businesses pushing these restrictions now.

Parks Plan

Harrow has 84 open parks and spaces, as well 33 allotment areas. Of these:

- 17 have courts, playgrounds and outdoor gyms
- 10 have playgrounds and outdoor gyms
- 9 have playgrounds

With the lifting of most social gathering rules, the teams will concentrate on the following actions only with regards parks and open spaces:

- Parks team Monday to Friday will do checks on the courts, playgrounds and outdoor gyms
- Enforcement will, from 1st June, assist in putting harder hitting signage and security on the gyms and play areas
- Only the top 6 parks, based on intelligence and issues, will receive proactive visits mainly from the volunteers who will ensure playgrounds and gyms are secured and ok, and these current hot spot parks are:
 - Harrow Rec
 - Alexander Park
 - Pinner Memorial
 - West Harrow
 - Chandos Rec
 - Bentley Priory
- These will be reviewed as part of Bronze Conference calls each morning to ensure are the top areas / issues
- For all issues of gatherings / ASB, the matters shall be passed to the local Police via 101 or Bronze calls
- Council Enforcement will not intervene with gatherings in parks or open spaces going forward
- Tennis courts will remain open, apart from where access means opening a playground / unauthorised area. Basketball courts will remain shut for now
- All car parks associated with parks and open spaces will remain shut to control the areas re gatherings, stop ASB in these areas and to encourage the push towards walking and cycling.

Business Plan (see also Appendix 1)

From 1st June, car showrooms and open markets can open. From 15th June, non-essential businesses can open. Already, teams are seeing attempts by businesses to open early, especially in high risk areas such as tattooists and massage places. This has included taking bookings through social media, and operating behind closed shutters.

The Coronavirus Restrictions Regulations puts the powers around businesses on Environmental Health and Trading Standards, so resources will move from the parks / open spaces to the high streets to ensure compliance in these areas. This includes preparing such areas for more businesses to open in line with the district centre opening plan.

A list of the main district centres is being produced and the plan requires the following to receive daily checks:

- **North West:** Pinner, Hatch End, North Harrow
- **North East:** Stanmore, Mollison Way, Belmont Circle
- **South West:** Northolt Road, Rayners Lane, Shaftesbury Circle
- **South East:** Burnt Oak, Whitchurch Lane, Kenton Road
- **Central:** Harrow Wealdstone, Harrow Weald

Other shopping areas will be checked on way to other areas, but not specifically targeted unless intelligence is received

Residential

Community and Public Protection is seeking to put in place an out of hours noise service going forward to mitigate the likelihood of increased noise complaints arising from the allowance for gatherings and bbqs in gardens from 1st June. The service will be limited in time, likely 7pm to 10pm, and respond to noise complaints. This service will be limited in resource, due to other commitments around enforcement, but have a presence and also enable checks on areas where intelligence suggests businesses are opening in the evening when they shouldn't

Schools

27 Primary Schools have opened in Harrow as of 1st June, taking reception, 1st and 6th year students in addition to key workers children. A further 7 are aiming to open on 8th June, 4 on 15th June and 5 are undeclared. Guidance has been issued to assist them (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings>) and the involvement of this management plan is to provide advice where it is needed and engage where social distancing issues are found. Education has informed us that details about staggered times, days closed for cleaning, entrances and exits used or any plans for social distancing is not known for each school, only days Schools will start to function (Appendix 2). Therefore Officers will monitor schools when passing in the morning / afternoon, but will not intervene unless intelligence shows an issue or contacted with issues. Police will be the primary enforcement body for social distancing as per the law, but the approach by all will be engage and educate as the enforcement around gatherings is not feasible and no law in place re the 2m rule still.

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 target business areas as well as spot checks on hot spot parks (in line with the parks plan above) 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 directed to the Police to attend (101 or, in case of large gatherings, bronze command). All of this is co-ordinated by a designated Manager for the day who Gold will be informed of for the weekends (Head of Community & Public Protection will cover Monday to Friday and also Bronze calls Monday to Saturday)

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 09:00(BCU normally meet at 08:30) and will only contact Gold during the day if there is a serious incident or the RAG Status for the Borough has changed (either by the co-ordinator or Police)

Facility closures

While the intention is to avoid any park, tennis court 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, the following is in place:

- all parks and tennis courts that can be closed have been identified and relevant locks / chains made available, as well as signage.
- 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

APPENDIX 1– 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

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 and public
- Outdoor Courts
- Garden Centres and Open Air Markets
- Car Showrooms

IF CONDUCTING ONE OF **RED** AREAS CANNOT OPEN

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

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

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
- A practical approach is being taken where if a shop sells essential and non-essential items and no way of separating (e.g. pound shop) then leave; if can separate (e.g.M&S) then impose regulation if needed

RULES

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

APPENDIX 2 – SCHOOL OPENINGS

School	re-opening week beginning
Avanti House Primary School	15-Jun
Aylward Primary School	01-Jun
Belmont School	TBC
Camrose Primary School with Nursery	01-Jun
Cannon Lane Primary School	01-Jun
Cedars Manor Primary School	15-Jun
Earlsmead Primary School	01-Jun
Elmgrove Primary School	01-Jun
Glebe Primary School	08-Jun
Grange Primary School	01-Jun
Grimsdyke Primary School	01-Jun
Heathland School	01-Jun
Kenmore Park Infant and Nursery School	08-Jun
Kenmore Park Junior School	08-Jun
Krishna Avanti Primary School	15-Jun
Longfield Primary School	01-Jun
Marlbrough Primary School	01-Jun
Moriah Jewish Day School	TBC
Newton Farm Infant and Nursery School	01-Jun
Norbury School	08-Jun
Pinner Park Primary School	01-Jun
Pinner Wood School	01-Jun
Priestmead Primary School and Nursery School	01-Jun
Roxbourne Primary School	01-Jun
Roxeth Primary School	01-Jun
St Anselms Catholic Primary School	01-Jun
St Berndette's Catholic Primary School	01-Jun
St Georges Catholic Primary School	01-Jun
St Jerome Bilingual School	01-Jun
St John Fisher Catholic Primary School	01-Jun
St Johns CofE School Stanmore	15-Jun
St Josephs Catholic Primary School	01-Jun
St Teresa's Roman Catholic First and Middle School	08-Jun
Stag Lane Primary School	08-Jun
Stanburn Primary School	01-Jun
Vaughan Primary School	01-Jun
Weald Rise Primary School	08-Jun
Welldon Park Primary Academy	01-Jun
West Lodge Primary School	08-Jun
Whitchurch Primary School	01-Jun
Whitefriars School	01-Jun