

Haskell Centre Public Toilets

The public toilets attached to the Haskell Centre are currently closed and have been closed since the government measures were first put in place. The government now allow public toilets to be open but only if suitable arrangements are put in place to minimise the possible transfer of Covid-19.

Increased Cleaning – there is a requirement for the frequency of toilet cleaning to be increased depending on the risk assessment. Our cleaner is contracted to clean the public toilets once per day. This involves a thorough clean and replacement of toilet rolls and cleaning products. I have confirmed with her that she is unable to increase the frequency of cleaning due to other commitments. The council would therefore need to employ an outside company to take on the full schedule of cleaning and servicing the toilets at additional cost to the council.

Modifications – before opening, the council will need to modify the toilets to ensure that dispensers are freely available for hand washing. The current arrangements are not sufficient. We would also need to ensure that there are safe arrangements for queueing during busy times. Signage would also be required.

Anti-Social Behaviour – Unfortunately, we often experience anti-social behaviour that undermines our ability to maintain a safe environment. We have evidence of drug taking requiring the occasional closure of the facilities to break the cycle. There is also misuse of the toilets during school opening and closing times with multiple occupation and general messing-around by school children.

Vulnerable People – public toilets are often used by elderly people and is certainly an additional risk factor for them if we are not able to provide appropriate arrangements for a safe environment.

Government Measures – although the toilets can be open, the current increase in cases of Covid-19 means that the government is increasing restrictions. We therefore need to consider whether further restriction may follow in the provision of public toilets.

Monitoring of the Toilets – We do not have any arrangements to monitor the toilets should there be problems.

Risk Assessment – A risk assessment has been undertaken and is attached.

Conclusion

It is my view that the council should not open the public toilets at the present time but review the position in January 2021 when we will have a better understanding of how severe the second wave of Covid-19 will be. Should the council decide to open the public toilets, the management of the arrangements including cleaning, provision of soap, toilet rolls etc, and monitoring the facilities would need to be carried-out by an external contractor.

Peter Stanley
Executive Officer
23/09/2020

Risk assessment template

Company name: **Bramshott & Liphook PC**

Assessment carried out by: **Executive Officer**

Date of next review: **13/11/2020**

Date assessment was carried out: **13/08/2020**

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing to control the risks?	What further action do you need to take to control the risks?	Who needs to carry out the action?	When is the action needed by?	Done
Spread of Covid-19 through lack of appropriate cleaning	Users of the public toilets/cleaner	Regular daily Cleaning of the public toilets	Increase cleaning from once to twice per day Usage will be monitored and if necessary, the frequency of cleaning increased	Executive Officer to arrange contract with external company	Prior to the public toilets reopening.	Not yet
Spread of Covid-19 through unhygienic use of the toilets	Users of the public toilets/cleaner	Providing handwashing facilities	Provide new soap dispensers and new toilet roll holders	Executive Officer to arrange fixing of new dispenser and toilet roll holders	Prior to the public toilets opening.	Not yet

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing to control the risks?	What further action do you need to take to control the risks?	Who needs to carry out the action?	When is the action needed by?	Done
Spread of Covid-19 through a lack of awareness or safe use of public toilets	Users of the public toilets/cleaner	Signage to wash hands	Addition signage to explain covid-19 measures, good hand hygiene and requesting only one person at a time unless assistance is needed	Executive Officer to arrange for new signs to be obtained	Prior to public toilets opening.	Not yet
Spread of Covid-19 through lack of PPE equipment	Cleaner if external contractor not used	Provide gloves	Provide mask and apron and any other PPE equipment identified	Executive Officer	Prior to the public toilets opening.	Not yet
Spread of Covid-19 by staff servicing the toilets	Haskell Centre Staff if external contractor not used	Staff servicing the toilets wash hands after task completed	No staff should service the toilets prior to them being cleaned.	All staff	Once toilets reopen	Not yet

More information on managing risk: www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/risk/