

GODMANCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

Use of Land Policy

This policy was formally adopted by the Town Council at the Town Council meeting held on 17 March 2022

.....

Cllr Clifford Thomas

TOWN MAYOR

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Godmanchester Town Council maintains a number of pieces of land for use by the community for purposes including relaxation and exercise. This policy covers the general principles and provisions associated with the land including the Recreation Ground, Judith's Field, Devana Park, Buttermel Meadow and other areas.

2.0 PRINCIPLE OF PROVISION

Where ever possible Godmanchester Town Council shall promote free and open access to the land for all users for the purposes of improvement of health and enjoyment. There will however be times when the council is required to place restrictions, for example to undertake works or as deemed appropriate at the time.

3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

Whilst Godmanchester Town Council shall seek to maintain the land in a safe and useable condition, there will be times when this is beyond our control. All persons using the facilities do so at their own risk.

In particular attention is drawn to ensuring that suitable attire is worn and care taken during adverse weather conditions and that any issues are reported to Godmanchester Town Council as quickly as possible.

4.0 ORGANISED GROUPS

The provisions here are not to prevent small ad hoc groups of friends or family congregating but to cover larger, more frequent or regular groups, particularly those where people taking part are charged a fee to participate. In general Godmanchester Town Council shall not unreasonably withhold permission for such activities to take place on Council-maintained land, but may ask that safeguards are put in place so as to avoid disruption to other users.

- **Frequency & Size**

Prior to promoting or commencing an event, permission must be sought for any groups which are either:

- ❖ Over 30 participants;
- ❖ For groups under 30 where the intention is that it is held more than twice within an 8 week period; or
- ❖ Where participants are being asked to make any form of payment or it relates to a commercial activity.

- **Requirements of Licence**

Godmanchester Town Council shall require that groups granted permission shall:

- ❖ Indemnify the Town Council against all claims, demands, costs, actions or proceedings caused by or to any person linked to the group.
- ❖ Satisfy the Town Council that good and adequate provision is made for the appropriate level of:
 - Risk Assessments
 - Insurance, including Public Liability Insurance

- First Aid provision
- Safeguarding and provisions relating to vulnerable people
- Protection against discrimination (equality and diversity)
- Other such legal permissions as may need to be required
- ❖ Agree to reinstate the land after use to the Council's satisfaction.
- ❖ Make payment or provide a deposit as set out in the terms of the licence so it is considered valid.

- **Charging Policy**

The Council shall make an individual assessment of each application and reserves the right to impose a charge for the use of the land or to require a deposit. A charge will normally be made for activities for which participants have to pay. The charges are set out in the attached annex and will be reviewed by the Town Council annually.

The cost to repair or make good any damage to the field incurred during use must be met by the person or group/organisation making the application.

5.0 GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR ALL USERS

The general provisions set out below shall apply to all users, regardless of whether they form part of a group.

- **Anti-social behavior**

At all times users shall be expected to not cause a nuisance or cause disruption to other users of the facilities and to ensure that others are not put at risk.

- **Littering and detritus**

People are expected to remove all items that they bring with them, or within reason, to dispose of them in the appropriate facilities as provided. Groups which generate large amounts are expected to ensure that provision is made in advance.

- **Consumption of Alcohol**

Excessive consumption of alcohol shall be prohibited at all times. Alcohol shall not be sold or a Temporary Events Notice applied for without the written permission of the Town Clerk.

- **Consumption of Food**

Food shall not be discouraged, however, leftovers must not be left due to the inherent risks to wildlife, pets and young children.

- **Playing of music**

Any music played shall be kept at a reasonable level at all times and not before 9am or after 9pm. Should any legal permission be required this shall not be applied for without the prior written permission of the Town Clerk.

6.0 ANIMALS AND PETS ON COUNCIL LAND

Owners are welcome to bring pets and animals, however the following restrictions and requirements shall apply:

- **Animals and pets**

Although we do not demand that animals are kept on a lead at all times, we do expect that they are kept under control at all times. At no point should they be allowed to harass or attack other users of the park, including other pets or wildlife. Owners are asked to ensure that they clear up after their pets to ensure that the grounds are kept useable by other members of the public. This includes both faeces and detritus such as parts of toys.

7.0 REPORTING OF ISSUES

Any issues encountered on council land should be reported directly to Godmanchester Town Council in the first instance with the general exception of where emergency services are deemed to be more appropriate. Godmanchester Town Council will seek to deal with any issues as quickly as possible, however, it is recognised that the council does not run an out of hours service.

8.0 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

The following miscellaneous provisions are also in force:

- **Scattering of Ashes**
The scattering of remains, human or animal, are specifically prohibited by the council at all properties.
- **Grazing of Animals**
The grazing of livestock shall not be allowed on council owned or maintained land.
- **Cemeteries**
Note that under *The Local Authorities' Cemeteries order 1977*, paragraph 18, offences in cemeteries, it is forbidden to play any game or sport or create a disturbance or cause a nuisance.
- **Erection of structures**
No structure, permanent or temporary, including such things as goal posts, shall be erected without the express written permission of the Council. This shall include a prohibition for fixing items to the trees, plants, shrubs, buildings and other objects.
- **Removal or addition of materials**
No materials are to be removed or added to Council land without prior approval.
- **Pitch and other markings**
Markings shall not be allowed unless agreed in writing with the Town Council. Any such marking shall be made using a substance or material as agreed at the time.

ANNEX A

Use of Land Policy

CHARGES FROM APRIL 2022

Outdoor Fitness Classes	Per Week	Per Month	Per Annum
1 to 2 times per week	£4.62	£20.00	£240.00
3 to 4 times per week	£6.92	£30.00	£360.00
5 to 7 times per week	£9.23	£40.00	£480.00

Amendment History:

Paragraph	Detail	Approval Date
Original	Initial Version	March 2022
Review Due		March 2025