



## **FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL**

### **USE OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACES**

This policy document has been compiled to regularise activities on public open spaces owned and managed by the Parish Council that may cause health and safety risk to users and identify those activities that require permission or are prohibited.

This document supports the Parish Council's Climate and Nature Emergency Local Action Plan encouraging everyone to walk and cycle and use the variety of open spaces available to local residents within the Parish.

#### Outdoor Exercise Classes

The Council will permit upon application, free of charge, across all appropriate open spaces, commercial and free to attend classes of either physical activity or mindfulness. Maximum attendance 20 persons. Organisers are responsible for their participants and must have, and provide copies of, adequate public liability insurance for their specific activity in line with the Parish Council Rules and Regulations for the Recreation Ground. No loud music will be allowed, and organisers must ensure that they do not obstruct any pathways or other activities, or cause nuisance to other users, nor encroach onto marked sports pitches or interfere with organised sports taking place.

#### Drones

In conjunction with the Council's recently updated Unmanned Aerial Systems Policy, the Council will consider approval of applications for the use of drones or any other unmanned aerial systems on a case-by-case basis. All applicants must demonstrate adherence to current Civil Aviation Authority Regulations in respect of legal and safe deployment of any unmanned aerial system and will be required to produce their Flyer ID and Operator ID for any drone over 250g with or without a camera and all drones under 250g with a camera. For more information, please go to [Unmanned aircraft and drones | UK Civil Aviation Authority \(caa.co.uk\)](https://www.caa.co.uk)

#### BBQs, Camp Fires and Fireworks

The Council continues to prohibit the use of BBQs, campfires and fireworks across all open space areas. Disposable barbeques and naked flames are a fire hazard, charcoal barbeques add to global warming and the littering associated with BBQs and campfires adds to the littering problems. Fireworks are dangerous and are also a fire hazard.

BBQs and Fireworks will only be allowed in conjunction with a fully permissioned organised and risk assessed public event.

### Sky Lanterns

The Council prohibits the use of Sky Lanterns (Chinese lanterns) from its open spaces due to the risk to farm animals and wildlife through ingesting the wires in the spent lantern frame, the risk to aircraft through distraction of pilots and the risk of fire from the lanterns landing on property (e.g. thatched roofs), crops or areas of heath or bracken.

### **PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER**

Four Marks Parish Council's public open spaces are subject to the District Council's current Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) and as such, members of the public may be fined for not removing dog waste, allowing dogs to enter fenced play areas, or not putting their dog on a lead when requested to by an enforcement officer.

Four Marks Parish Council reserve the right to alter this policy at any time and/or to prohibit any individual, business or organisation from using the Council's public open spaces if they violate any of the terms of this policy.