

Cabinet – 24th October 2018

Open Water Safety Policy

Portfolio: Councillor Harrison – Clean and Green

Related Portfolio Councillor Perry – Community, Leisure and Culture

Service: Parks and Green Spaces

Wards: All

Key decision: Yes

Forward plan: Yes

1. Summary

- 1.1 Walsall Council has a number of parks, green spaces and agricultural land that include areas of open water. These areas of open water are varied, but enhance biodiversity and public enjoyment of all ages. People should be able to enjoy and appreciate these sites safely for either formal leisure activities or more informal recreational activities.
- 1.2 These areas of open water include ponds, pools, brooks, streams, rivers and ornamental water features. Open water sites can present a number of risks and hazards, such as drowning and pollution (oil, blue-green algae, etc), which is harmful to people and animals.
- 1.3 Open water may look attractive, especially in summer months, but can prove to be fatal for individuals swimming in deep water due to water temperatures being cold. In freezing conditions, open water sites might be covered with ice and attract children and young people who may walk on the ice and fall into the water.
- 1.4 The council is responsible for managing open water sites in its ownership, but there are a number of other sites within the Borough that are not under its jurisdiction.
- 1.5 The council will ensure resources are available to service areas for the management and maintenance of open water sites in order to meet their legal duties and responsibilities to the general public and staff.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet notes the actions achieved to date on the Open Water Safety Policy.

2.2 That Cabinet approves the revised Open Water Safety Policy detailed in Appendix A.

3. Report detail

- 3.1 All open water facilities and other water based facilities for which the council is responsible, are maintained in a safe condition for the benefit of users and the safety of staff. In all cases, the appropriate service area will review these arrangements and risk assessments in accordance with the Open Water Safety Policy.
- 3.2 The council has a duty to ensure that visitors to its land are kept reasonably safe. This duty can also extend to trespassers, whether or not there is something on the land which might attract them.
- 3.3 The council recognises that the provision of appropriate and adequate information and training on water safety to its staff is essential to the development of the Open Water Safety Policy to reduce drowning and accidents. All those responsible for the safety of open water will attend a one-day RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) water safety course (or similar). This will be refreshed every five years. The council will endeavour to ensure that education is provided to the general public.
- 3.4 All managers responsible for open water sites are required to implement this policy and undertake suitable and sufficient risk assessments in accordance with the policy. The results of risk assessments (including the action taken to reduce the hazard) must be recorded in line with this policy.
- 3.5 The inspection regime should be based upon a risk assessment profile determined upon location, public exposure and record of vandalism. The results of all formal inspections will be recorded and the documents retained by the designated manager for the site.

Achievements to date

- 3.6 RoSPA have completed risk assessments of 37 of the 49 open water sites; those for the remaining 12 sites will be done shortly. All sites will continue to be inspected regularly by Parks and Green Spaces.
- 3.7 Remedial works are currently being undertaken to address issues identified in the risk assessments at Moorside Gardens Allotments (repairs to bridges and installation of handrails and fencing), Merrions Wood (replacement of footbridge and steps) and Park Lime Pits (repairs to boardwalks and fencing, realignment of a footpath, installation of handrail and removal of wooden ladders attached to trees).
- 3.8 The risk assessments identify at least one high priority recommendations / actions across a further 22 sites e.g. repair or removal of built structures (boardwalks, fencing, fishing pegs, steps, etc.), ensure that there is a safe working method for groundworks on the water's edge and review the placement

of rescue equipment. Medium priority recommendations / actions only have been identified at a further five sites and low priority at another seven. These have been allocated to a responsible officer for corrective action and are scheduled to be completed within the next 3 months.

- 3.9 Discussions are being held with RoSPA regarding a presentation on water safety to be taken to community and sports groups, which would be targeted in areas with sites of greatest risk.

Amendments to the Open Water Safety Policy (see Appendix B)

- 3.10 Risk Levels – at the time, RoSPA's *Safety in Coastal and Inland Waters Operational Guidelines* provided a framework for developing a consistent approach to levels of risk; however, this is now obsolete. Instead, site risk assessments will determine the levels of risk present at open water sites and identify any corrective actions required.
- 3.11 Ice on Open Water – displaying appropriate and adequate temporary warning signs at all access points when ice develops on open water has been deemed impractical. Instead, where appropriate, site information and signage will include warnings of the dangers of ice on open water.
- 3.12 Provision of Boats and other Craft – as well as ensuring that boats or other craft provided by the Council for use by members of the public and/or staff meet all appropriate standards and are maintained in good working order, the Council will ensure that operators are competent to them.

4. Council Corporate Plan priorities

- 4.1 The Open Water Safety Policy contributes to the following Strategic priority in the Corporate Plan 2018/21:
- Communities – Green spaces are safe and healthy places that build a strong sense of belonging and cohesion. Access and use of green spaces improves health and wellbeing and reduce social isolation.
- 4.2 Areas of open water for which the council is responsible will be maintained in a safe condition through site inspections, risk assessments and corrective actions. A more proactive approach raises public awareness of the dangers of open water.
- 4.3 Physical activity and time in the outdoors, engaging with nature, bring health and wellbeing benefits. Outdoor activities and participation also allow people to achieve and succeed, build self-confidence, reduce stress, foster teamwork, develop skills and encourage independence.

5. Risk management

- 5.1 The Open Water Safety Policy is linked to the Council's Health and Safety Policy. This report and associated policy has been revised to provide a proactive approach in order to mitigate the risk of potential incidents / accidents with regards to open water on Council land.
- 5.2 Through the relevant Executive Directors, the council provides appropriate arrangements for the management of areas of open water under its control. These measures ensure that all open water facilities and other water based facilities for which the council is responsible, are maintained in a safe condition for the benefit of the users and the safety of staff. In all cases the appropriate service area continues to review these arrangements and risk assessments.
- 5.3 The council only uses an area of open water for recreational activity if it is organised by the council or through a suitable/qualified organisation that is recognised to have the expertise and management arrangements to ensure that health and safety arrangements are met.
- 5.4 The Councils Insurance & Loss Control Team support the introduction of the amended Open Water Policy which will improve water safety on sites which are the Councils responsibility and reduce the risk to the Council from civil liability claims for negligence and/or breach of duty.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 Cabinet approved the first Open Water Safety Policy on 13th December 2017. Cabinet also approved an amendment to the 2017/18 capital program to provide funding for the policy and the expenditure of £73,650 capital works from the amended 2017/18 Capital Programme and ongoing annual revenue costs of £31k per year to start that year to enable immediate implementation of the policy

There are no additional financial implications with this revised Open Water Safety Policy.

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 Legal Services were closely involved in the production of the original Open Water Safety Policy.
- 7.2 The proposed changes in policy do not have a detrimental impact on the Council's responsibility in respect of the management of open water.

8. Procurement Implications/Social Value

- 8.1 Capital items such as signs, fencing, soft infrastructure and pathways have and will continue to be procured in accordance with the Council's financial regulations and tendering procedures.

9. Property implications

9.1 None

10. Health and wellbeing implications

10.1 The Open Water Safety Policy satisfies the Marmot objectives in that it helps children have the best start and are safe from harm, happy, healthy and learning well, and helps communities to prosper and become resilient, with a strong sense of belonging and cohesion.

10.2 The health and wellbeing benefits of physical activity and time in the outdoors, engaging with nature, are well understood. Beyond this there is a vast range of evidence and research to indicate the further positive impact of outdoor pursuits. Participation builds self-confidence, reduces stress, fosters teamwork, develops skill and encourages independence.

10.3 Outdoor activities allow people to achieve and succeed (including young people who struggle with more traditional activities), and allow people with disabilities to experience a greater sense of mobility, independence and achievement than they will in their daily lives.

11. Staffing implications

11.1 A new post has been created and appointment made to assist with implementing the Open Water Safety Policy. This role includes taking a more proactive approach of promoting the safety message by heightening awareness amongst community and voluntary groups on the dangers of open water, conducting risk assessments and carrying out any corrective action required to mitigate risks to the general public.

12. Reducing inequalities

12.1 There are no direct equality implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

12.2 Equal opportunities are taken into account through the site risk assessments.

13. Consultation

13.1 RoSPA have been consulted with regards to the previous Open Water Safety Policy and suggested the recommended changes in this proposed policy.

Background papers

Report to Cabinet: Open Water Safety Policy, 13th December 2017

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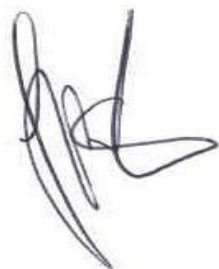
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24 October 2018

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24 October 2018



Walsall Council

Open Water

Safety Policy

October 2018



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Foreword

Walsall Council has a number of parks and green spaces that include areas of open water. These areas of open water are varied, but enhance wildlife and public enjoyment of all ages. People should be able to enjoy and appreciate these sites safely for either leisure activities (formal) or more informal recreational activities.

These areas of open water include ponds, pools, brooks, streams, rivers, ornamental water features and sustainable urban drainage schemes.

The list of open water sites is included at page 14.

Open water sites can present a number of risks and hazards such as drowning and pollution (oil, blue-green algae, etc) which is harmful to people and animals.

Open water may look attractive especially in summer months, but can prove to be fatal for individuals swimming in deep water due to water temperatures being cold. In freezing conditions open water sites might be covered with ice and attract children and young people who may walk on the ice and fall into the water.

This policy is linked to the Walsall Council Health and Safety Policy.

The council will take advice and guidance of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents and assess open water sites that are under its control, and take all *reasonable steps* to protect people from danger.

The best practice document that should be read in conjunction with this policy is:-

- RoSPA guidance '*Safety in Inland Water Sites - Operational Guidelines*.

<http://www.rospa.com/rospaweb/docs/advice-services/leisure-safety/inland-water-sites.pdf>

The council is responsible for managing open water sites, but there are a number of other sites within the Borough that are not under its jurisdiction. The council will encourage riparian landowners to adopt a similar water safety policy.

The council will ensure resources are available for the management and maintenance of open water sites in order to meet their legal duties and responsibilities to the public and staff.



Open Water Safety Policy

1. Statement of Intent

The Council will, through the relevant Executive Directors, provide appropriate arrangements for the management of areas of open water under its control.

These measures should ensure that all open water facilities and other water based facilities for which the Council is responsible, are maintained in a safe condition for the benefit of the users and the safety of staff. In all cases the appropriate Service Area will review these arrangements and risk assessments.

The Council will only use an area of open water for recreational activity if it is organised by the Council or through a suitable/qualified organisation that is recognised to have the expertise and management arrangements to ensure that health and safety arrangements are met.

2. Legal Responsibilities

The Local Authority in its capacities as Enforcing Authority, Landowner and Occupier has responsibilities for enforcing Health and Safety in relation to Council premises. A number of pieces of legislation place duties on the Council to ensure the safety of others on open water.

Statute and common law have a relevance to the Council's duties regarding safety on inland waters.

In law there is a duty to ensure that visitors to your land are kept reasonably safe. One description of this duty is: "to take reasonable care to avoid acts or omissions which you can reasonably foresee would be likely to injure your neighbour". This duty can also extend to trespassers where there is something on the land which might attract people, invited or not onto the land.

Statutory Health and Safety Requirements

The general principle of the legal duty of care is also reflected in statutory duties. Public and employee safety at water sites is also a statutory duty placed upon those who have effective control over sites.

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

The Act requires every employer to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that he/she takes the necessary steps to ensure the safety of non-employees affected by his/her activities.



The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (previously 1992)

These regulations made under the HASAW 1974 require that adequate and suitable assessments of work related hazards should be carried out to determine the preventative and protective steps that must be taken.

The Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981

The regulations set out the range of numbers and training of first aiders, and the type of equipment that should be provided.

Public Health Act 1936

This is an enabling law offering local authorities the power to regulate water use. The Council may pass byelaws to regulate swimming and the provision of safety equipment at places open for public bathing.

Occupiers Liability Acts 1957 and 1984

The Acts impose a duty on landowners and those in controlled land to take care of both lawful and unlawful visitors. The occupier must take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of visitors to his/her land or premises. The standard of care required depends on the individual. This duty is particularly onerous where children are concerned as there is a higher duty owed to the individual (Child)

The Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996

This implements European Directive 92/58/EEC, which came into force in April 1996. This standardises safety signs throughout member states of the European Union. This should also be read in conjunction with the Standard BS 5499 published in 2002 specific to water safety signage. BS EN ISO 7010 provides examples for graphical symbols. There is a duty to provide suitable signs at all places of public bathing.

3. Competence and Capability

The Council recognises that the provision of appropriate and adequate information and training on water safety is key to the development of the Water Safety Policy to prevent drowning and accidents. All those responsible for the safety of open water will attend a one-day RoSPA water safety course (or similar). This will be refreshed every five years. The Council will endeavour to ensure that training is provided to the public.



4. Responsibility

The Council will ensure that all parts of the Council which manage sites of open water have an identified responsible officer suitably trained to manage the site in accordance with this policy.

5. Risk Assessment

All managers responsible for open water sites are required to implement this policy and undertake suitable and sufficient risk assessments. The results of Risk Assessments (including the action taken to reduce the hazard) must be recorded in line with this policy. The Risk Assessment will consider amongst other matters the following:

- The nature of the water – type of water body, clarity and flow of water, etc.
- The proximity of the deep water to the edge – distance, depth, profile, etc.
- The water's edge itself – hard/soft, clear/unclear delimitation, etc
- The accessibility of the water – any fencing, barrier, vegetation, etc
- The hinterland activity – use of and accessibility to the adjacent land.

6. Safety Inspections and Hazard Identification

The Council will ensure that routine safety inspections, as identified through risk assessment, are undertaken of all open water venues managed by the Council. It will ensure the availability of appropriate arrangements and resources to provide where necessary life saving equipment. It will also provide for the monitoring, maintenance and repair of such equipment. Where appropriate edge protection and signage will be provided. The Council will also ensure that such arrangements will secure appropriate records of all such interventions in respect of Monitoring, Inspection, Maintenance and Repair are kept.

The inspection of rescue equipment should be based upon a risk assessment profile determined upon location, public exposure and record of vandalism. The results of all formal inspections will be recorded and the documents retained by the designated manager for the site.

Safety inspections will monitor:-

- The provision and condition of rescue equipment
- The condition and positioning of safety notices
- The condition of any edge protection measures
- Any change to the waters edge or access which has been caused by storm or climatic change
- A review of the risk assessments applicable to the site

Site safety inspections and arrangements for hazard identification will be reviewed annually by the appropriate department and any interested parties.



7. The Provision of Information

Promotion of water safety

As part of the overall safety strategy the following measures should be undertaken to improve and ensure greater awareness of the potential dangers of the water.

Walsall Council will provide information (verbal and / or written) on all aspects of water safety based on the educational resources identified by RoSPA. Such resources shall be directed at local schools, community or voluntary groups, being of significant value in promoting the safety message.

Site Information and Signage

Multi signs will be provided at main access points to sites, as determined through risk assessments. It is important that this signage relates exclusively to safety and that it is kept simple and does not include any other information.

This information will include the details of the known water based hazards within the site and will also display warning signs in accordance with the requirements of the Health and Safety (Signs and Signals Regulations 1996).

BSI standards have been developed specific to water safety signs. The current standard is BS 5499-11: 2002 and BS EN ISO 7010. All signs should conform to either standard.

The Council will use pictograms to cover the demographics within the borough and will ensure the maximum impact of the safety messages.

These signs will detail:

- Location
- Map of the site with lifesaving points and help points identified (where such equipment is installed).
- Do not enter the water
- No Swimming
- Action to be taken in an emergency
- Examples of safety signage to be found at the location (wherever possible you should provide pictograms to cater for the ethnic diversity of your visitors)
- Parents - please keep your children under supervision at all times
- NAG signs reinforcing these messages be placed at strategic points along the water's edge.
- Space should also be provided for the positioning of temporary notices (eg. *Danger - Ice take care!*)

Warning Signs

In accordance with the recommendations of the National Water Safety Committee, warning signs will be displayed in areas where there is a particular hazard. In addition, nag signs will be displayed at appropriate locations within the site; this may include lifebuoy stands (called safety points) that repeat this information. ***(Where safety points are prone to vandalism and their integrity cannot be guaranteed an alternative strategy will be to investigate engineering options to increase the physical level of edge protection.)*** All signs will be numerically identified, recorded on appropriate site plans and maintained in a reasonable condition. At predetermined intervals all signage will be inspected by a competent person, with the details recorded and available for inspection.

8. Risk Levels

Site risk assessments determine the levels of risk present at open water sites and identify any corrective actions required. Remedial action may include signage, edge protection, planting, barrier or fencing.

9. Monitoring and Control of Works Alongside the Water Edge

Where there is work being carried out to open water, for example de-silting, rubbish collection, water edge maintenance and improvements, etc., an assessment should be made before such work is undertaken. In the case of this work being done by contractors, project managers will ensure that they comply with the appropriate sections of Walsall Council Health and Safety Policy.

10. Safety Criteria for the Management and Design of Water Edges

In the delivery of improvement actions or the implementation of specific projects associated with open water there are a number of design factors that should be taken into consideration as follows. For more specific guidance you should refer to RoSPA publication 'Safety in Inland Water Sites'- Operational Guidelines – ISBN 185088 0921 1.

11. Design and Control of Facilities Adjacent to Open Water

When facilities such as play areas, external recreational or sporting facilities, walkways or planting areas are to be developed, which are adjacent to or near open water, a risk assessment should be undertaken. A careful consideration of the risks should review both design and maintenance and should be made in accordance with the Construction Design and Management Regulations 2015 and in full consultation with all concerned parties.

The siting and design of such facilities should be a tripartite decision by all interested Council Departments to ensure that the safety of all users of the facilities and staff employed to maintain the completed facility.

12. Planning and Adoption of Land

Walsall Council will, before it adopts any area of land with an open water risk, require the original owner to commission a water safety audit at its own expense. The Council will require any issues identified to be rectified by the owner prior to adoption of the land by the Council.

13. Rescue Equipment

The Council will, where necessary and as identified through appropriate risk assessments, make available around areas of open water life saving equipment in containers known as 'Safety Points'. These Safety Points will hold suitable rescue equipment.

Such safety points will be of solid construction and visible both day and night. Consideration should be given, following a risk assessment; as to who may need to access this equipment e.g. the disabled or young children and the height of the container above the ground should reflect this assessment. The positioning of this equipment will be dependent upon an assessment.

The locations of these 'Safety Points' will be determined by the risk assessment process and will reflect likely points of access to the water and places where a rescue attempt may be safely attempted. In all cases a person should be able to see a 'Safety Point' from wherever they are.

Life rings are considered suitable for deep water such as adjacent to locks, quaysides or quarries. Throw lines are more suitable where the edge gradient is shallow and directional stability is required.

Where the risk assessment identifies that vandalism will adversely affect the integrity of the 'Safety Point' alternative edge protection measures including total exclusion will be employed. (See safety criteria for management and design section.)

Safety signage and lifesaving equipment should be combined into a position known as a safety point. Life rings should be considered where there is a substantial drop into deep water, whereas throw lines should be considered for all other locations.

The safety point should repeat the messages found on the multi sign at the entrances (see above). The positioning of the safety point should meet the criteria that the public can see one from whatever location they are at.

All safety points should be identified by a number, recorded on a site plan and checked regularly. Documentary evidence should be retained of these checks. Safety points should be positioned on dedicated posts and containers, which can be accessed by the disabled as well as by children, and be visible at night. The Council recognises the value of providing life buoys at appropriate locations around all the areas of open water. The location of life buoys is determined as a result of a risk assessment so they might be easily accessible by any person who needs one for rescue purposes.



14. Ice on Open Water

When ice forms on open water it is the Council's policy not to break ice as it forms.

Where appropriate, site information and signage will include warnings of the dangers of ice on open water.

15. Environmental Management

Where pollution (oil, blue-green algae, etc) is found to be present in or near open water, staff must report such occurrences immediately to the Environmental Health service.

It is often the case that the Environment Agency will report the presence of blue-green algae to the Council. In such cases the Council will ensure that appropriate warning signs, in the main for the protection of dogs, are displayed (as part of their arrangements for monitoring, inspection maintenance and repair) around the affected area and that water based recreation is restricted as required until the water condition improves.

When a potential risk to human health with implications for the management of aquatic wildlife is identified, the Council will implement appropriate monitoring and reporting regimes as are directed by DEFRA or the Environment Agency. Any remedial actions dictated by these agencies will be implemented under their direction.

A number of open water sites are managed specifically to encourage the biodiversity of the Borough and are strategically linked to conservation management plans and the Birmingham and Black Country Nature Improvement Area. On such sites specific consideration will be given to the impact any safety management processes and/or remedial works would have on the integrity of the conservation value of the site. Land managers will be responsible, through the risk assessment and site audit processes, for identifying the delivery of appropriate water safety measures that least affects the specific conservation requirements identified for the site.

16. Supervision

On areas of open water, full time supervision is deemed to be neither reasonable nor practicable, nor the most effective response to a water hazard.

Staff working at larger sites with areas of open water will have special regard to the activities taking place.

Where regular programmed activities, such as water sports, take place on areas of open water, the organisation responsible for the activity is required to take adequate precautions to ensure the safety of all participants and spectators.

Use of Open Water for Activities



Where a group or organisation wishes to use an area of water for an approved activity an application must be made in writing to the Site Manager or person nominated by him/her. This does not apply to normal operating arrangements of a club using the water by licence, lease or any other formal arrangement. Applications must be made at least six weeks in advance of the proposed event activity.

The event organiser will be responsible for ensuring that all aspects of the site's Normal Operating Procedures (NOP) and Emergency Action Plan (EAP), as they relate to the activity, are incorporated into their own event information. Copies of these documents will be made available to all staff who either work at, or have access to, a site within an area of open water and will be made available to any person or organisation wishing to use the site for an organised activity. The responsibility for the implementation of the policy and for the approval of any water-based activity rests with the service area in liaison with the appropriate Health and Safety Manager, who must approve these control measures.

Use of Open Water for Sports on a Casual Basis

The Council will not allow the use of facilities for water sports such as swimming, sailing, windsurfing, canoeing and rowing on a casual basis.

Angling will be allowed on permitted sites providing that an Environment Agency rod licence is held.

17. First Aid Provision at Open Water Sites

First aid equipment will normally be provided where there is a permanent staff presence on site. In all other cases no first aid facilities are provided.

First aid equipment, in accordance with the standards set out in the current First Aid at Work Approved Code of Practice, is carried on all Council vehicles.

18. Recording and Reporting of Incidents

Members of the public will be encouraged to report incidents to the Council on the telephone number displayed on the 'Multi-signs' at the entrances to the open water sites.

19. Provision of Boats and other Craft

Should boats or other craft be provided by the Council for use by members of the public and/or staff, the Council will ensure that such craft will meet all appropriate standards and will be maintained in good working order, and that operators are competent to use them. Documented records will be kept of these maintenance and training arrangements.



20. Provision of Buoyancy Aids

In circumstances where staff use watercraft, buoyancy aids manufactured in accordance with EN393: 1994 will be provided. Members of staff must wear buoyancy aids at all times when on or in watercraft. Where it is proposed to introduce new equipment, the Council will ensure that there is full consultation with the Council's Safety Manager.

21. Water Safety Strategy - Site Operating Procedures

The Council will develop Local Arrangement and Emergency Procedures (LAEP) in accordance with the Risk Assessment for the operation of water sites. The local arrangements and emergency procedures will contain, as a minimum, the following information.

Local Arrangement

- A plan of the site highlighting potential hazards and risk factors
- Managing visitors to the site - water safety information - controlling access
- Location of available first aid supplies
- Special conditions and supervision requirements relating to the use of the water for activity groups
- Details, maintenance and location of all emergency equipment
- Staffing arrangements
- Systems of work for all staff and volunteers
- Training requirements for all staff and volunteers
- Emergency Action Plan [EAP]

The Council's Emergency Action Plan for all open water facilities will contain, as a minimum all action to be taken in the event of any foreseeable emergency, which is to include the following information:

- Drowning
- Water rescue
- Ice entrapment
- Public disorder
- Notification of a first aid or other medical emergency
- Identification and reporting of water pollution
- Flooding
- Severe weather

22. Safety Committee

The Council will ensure that all reported water based incidents / accidents are considered by the appropriate Health and Safety Committee who will make recommendations and corrective actions where appropriate, prior to a report being made to the Council's Corporate H&S Board.

23. Open Water Sites

Current Open Water Sites identified

Sites	Grid Reference	Postcode
Arboretum	SP 01917 99 11 (L pool) SP 02000 99217 (S pool)	WS4 2DA
Brownhills Common (SSSI)	SK 03618 06389	WS8 7LU
Bailey's Pool	SJ 98513 02062	WS3 2LT
Barnes Lane Pool	SK 03600 01689	WS4 1EZ
Beechdale Park	SJ 98951 00942	WS2 7LW
Bentley Haye (in Rough Wood Chase LNR)	SJ 98331 00484 SJ 98474 00452 SJ 98502 00478	WS2 7LU
Clayhanger Common	SK 04301 04856 (Lagoon) SK 04515 04330	WS8 7DZ
Cuckoo's Nook and the Dingle	SP 05454 98717 SP 05472 98811	WS9 0TA
Fibbersely LNR	SO 95480 99486 SO 95726 99642 SO 95526 99392 SO 95624 99217 SO 95475 99122 SO 95780 99448 SO 95373 99275 SO 95458 99327	WV13 3AG WV13 3SU WV13 3BB WV13 3BT WV13 3BS WV13 3BB WV13 3BS WV13 3BJ
Hayhead Wood	SP 04233 98984	WS4 2JS
Heath End	SK 01927 02131	WS3 4NW
Heathfield Lane Pool	SO 96815 96559	WS10 8QW
Leighswood Wood	SK 05554 01524	WS9 8BD
Leyland's Farm	SK 01385 03752	WS3 5EU
Merrions Wood LNR	SP 04007 95921	B43 7AN
Mill Lane LNR	SP 01761 99889 (Large) SP 01799 99932 (Small)	WS3 1PW
Moat Farm Pool	SK 02308 04189	WS3 5BN
Moorcroft Wood LNR	SO 97043 95243	WS10 8GE
Newtown Pool	SJ 99367 03987	WS3 3XU
North Walsall Cemetery	SJ 99275 04100	WS6 6BA
Oily Gough's (in Rough Wood Chase LNR)	SJ 98766 01579 SJ 98859 01663	WS2 7NN
Palfrey Park	SP 01000 96836	WS1 4DZ
Park Hall Pool	SP 03313 97197	WS5 3QH
Park Lime Pits LNR	SP 02929 99870 SP 03084 99976 SP02957 99803	WS4 2HH
Pelsall Common - Heathend	SK02165 02671	WS3 4QL
Pelsall North Common	SK 01253 04604 SK 01488 04641 SK 02026 04509	WS3 5AF WS3 5AD



Reedswood Park	SO 99626 99753 (Large) SP 00093 99687 (Small)	WS2 8TG WS2 8XA
Rough Wood (in Rough Wood Chase LNR)	SJ 98413 00937 SJ 98236 00692 SJ 98628 00696	WV12 5NH WV12 5NX WV12 5NH
Shire Oak Park LNR	SK 05740 03538 SK 06142 03457	WS9 9RG WS9 9DE
Sneyd Pool	SJ 97961 02702	WS3 2TL
Sneyd Reservoir (in Rough Wood Chase LNR)	SJ 98158 02369	WS3 2LU
Stubbers Green & Swan Pool	SK 03998 01756 (The Swag) SK 04024 01966 (Swan)	WS9 8BL WS9 8BL
Swannies and The Lea	SK 01486 01605	WS3 1DS
The Piggeries (in Rough Wood Chase LNR)	SJ 98698 01113	WS2 7NN
Wallington Heath Pool	SJ 99872 02993	WS3 3NS
Willenhall Lawn Cemtery	SJ 97903 00230	WV12 4AF
Willenhall Memorial Park	SO 95590 98760	WV13 3DE
Wood Farm (in Rough Wood Chase LNR)	SJ 98437 01923	WS3 2LT

GRAZING SITES	
Beacon Road, adjoining Beacon Park Farm, Barr Beacon	Minor water course
Cartbridge Lane South, Walsall	Minor water course
Dumblederry Lane	Minor water course
Greenfields Road, Shelfield (a)	Minor water course
Greenfields Road, Shelfield (b)	Minor water course
Greenwood Road, Aldridge	Minor water course
Pelsall Lane, Rushall	Minor water course
Station Road, Rushall (a)	Minor water course
Station Road, Rushall (b)	Minor water course
Station Road, Rushall (c)	Minor water course
Vicarage Road, Pelsall	Minor water course

Appendix B

Amendments to the Open Water Safety Policy

1. Risk Levels

December 2017

The Council has adopted the RoSPA banding guide (*safety in coastal and inland waters operational guidelines*) as best practice. This provides a best practice framework to assist operators in developing a consistent approach to certain levels of risk, presented in an urban waterside environment.

Risk Level 1

- Water less than 0.5m in depth providing an ornamental function.
- Solid well defined edge, e.g. coping stone. Minimal height above surface. The edge may be stepped allowing a gradual approach to the water.
- Water body is not the attraction to the site, nor is it the central location

Action

- No signing required
- No fencing required.
- A 1m edge protection to be in place

Risk Level 2

- The water will exceed approximately 0.5m in depth.
- The edge is well defined and solid and not more than approximately 2m above the water surface.
- Water body is not the attraction to the site, nor is it the central location
- The site may attract in particular young people.

Action

- Signage is required
- A 1m edge protection
- NAG signs (signage repeating key safety information e.g. "Danger – no swimming") may be provided

Risk Level 3

- Deep water or fast moving water.
- Solid, well defined edge.
- Heavily used recreationally and / or for events
- Unlikely to be adjacent to dwellings, bridges, weirs and cuts.

Action

- Signage is required
- Bollard/post and chain (or rail) protection, and rescue equipment on the perimeter.
- A 1m edge protection
- NAG signs (signage repeating key safety information e.g. "Danger – no swimming") may be provided

Risk Level 4 (exclusion fencing)

The presence of an attraction, such as water sport event or an adjacent residential housing estate or school (or where vandalism is causing a particular problem with the integrity of life saving equipment), is a good reason to upgrade to '*band four fencing*'. *Band four fencing* should meet all the normal standards as laid down in the building regulations regarding height spacing of railings and non-climb design.

October 2018

Site risk assessments determine the levels of risk present at open water sites and identify any corrective actions required. Remedial action may include signage, edge protection, planting, barrier or fencing.

2. Ice on Open Water

December 2017

When ice develops on open water, the Council will ensure that appropriate and adequate temporary warning signs are displayed at all access points and that strategic 'Nag' signs are installed.

This requirement will be part of the arrangements for monitoring, inspection maintenance and repair. The location of such signs will ensure that they give a clear warning of danger to visitors to the site.

When ice forms on open water it is the Council's policy not to break ice as it forms.

October 2018

When ice forms on open water it is the Council's policy not to break ice as it forms.

Where appropriate, site information and signage will include warnings of the dangers of ice on open water.

3. Provision of Boats and other Craft

December 2017

Should boats or other craft be provided by the Council for use by members of the public and/or staff, the Council will ensure that such craft will meet all appropriate standards and will be maintained in good working order. Documented records will be kept of these maintenance arrangements.

October 2018

Should boats or other craft be provided by the Council for use by members of the public and/or staff, the Council will ensure that such craft will meet all appropriate standards and will be maintained in good working order, and that operators are competent to use them. Documented records will be kept of these maintenance and training arrangements.