

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

REQUEST FOR THE USE OF EMERGENCY POWERS – CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

SUBJECT: To seek authorisation to reopen Parks for exercise that were closed as part of the control measures implemented to minimise the spread of Covid-19, and to agree the cessation of vehicle mounted Tannoy Covid-19 warning announcements.

1. **Originating Committee / Department** -

Environment and Housing

2. **Reason for Emergency Powers** -

The First Minister recently announced a relaxation in the Covid-19 regulations to allow for increased outdoor exercise. To assist this authorisation is sought to reopen all Parks that were closed due to instances of excessive gatherings and visits from user who were not local to the areas concerned. All these Parks would be subject to suitable social distancing measures and the appropriate warning / information signage being introduced. Parks would be open for 'exercise' only and not recreation and all play areas would remain closed and be suitably restricted and signed to strictly deter any use. The arrangements at each Park would be kept under regular review to ensure that all rules are being followed. Each Park is listed below along with a brief description of the access arrangements, play facilities and site characteristics:-

- **Romilly Park** – This has 5 access points (4 being vehicle width) with large open spaces. There is a play area / tennis courts, and these will be locked down separately.
- **Alexandra Park (Penarth)** – 4 access points (3 being vehicle width). There is a play area that will be locked down separately. There may be a need for site specific signage in the narrow path areas.
- **Central Park** – 4 access points (1 being vehicle width) with a play area zone that will be closed off separately, at the gates.
- **Milburn Park (Rhoose)** – 1 access point (vehicle width) – once inside the site has an open layout with no specific play areas that need to be locked down.
- **Penarth Head (Penarth)** – 2 access points – no requirement to lock sections down (we have not locked off the viewing platform) and the layout has a very open aspect to the site which is used primarily as a thoroughfare.
- **Victoria Park (Barry)** - 6 access points (2 vehicle width) with a play area that has its own specific zone within the site which is not fenced off and is part of the thoroughfare of the site. The entire zone will be locked down if required and the multi-use games area (MUGA) will be locked down separately

- **Bassett Park (Barry)** – 3 access points, main issue being the play area and MUGA which are an integral part of this site and are not separately fenced off. We will separate the spaces with crowd control barriers locking the play area space down.
- **Belle Vue Park (Penarth)** – 5 access points (1 vehicle width), main issue is the play area is an integral part of this site and is not separately fenced off. Barriers and signage will be used to close this area off.
- **Golden Gates (Penarth)** – 2 very narrow access points with a new fenced off play area.
- **Hatch Quarry (Barry)** – 1 access point with a separately fenced play area but there is a large open space directly opposite.
- **Bryn Y Don / King George V / Penarth Athletic Field** - these sites currently have barrier controls and will be unlocked.

Authorisation is also requested to cease the Tannoy warning messaging currently in use on 5 vehicles, as this form of messaging has run its course and is no longer proving effective in encouraging residents to stay in their homes.

3. Policy Framework and Budget -

PLEASE INDICATE as appropriate that the matter that you are seeking the use of Emergency Powers for is a Cabinet or Council function.

Cabinet

Council

4. Relevant Scrutiny Committee -

Environment and Regeneration

IMPORTANT

The following sections **must** be completed **prior** to the request being submitted to the Democratic and Scrutiny Services Section for processing.

I confirm ...

~~(a) — That there are no financial implications and the relevant Cabinet Member, Leader and / or the Deputy Leader has been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers; **or**~~

(b) That, in view of the financial commitments, the Head of Financial Services, the appropriate Chief Officer, the relevant Cabinet Member, Leader and / or Deputy Leader have been consulted and are in agreement with the use of the Emergency Powers ~~and that~~

~~(c) — For matters relating to the Planning Committee the Chairman of the Planning Committee has also been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers;~~

~~(d) — For matters relating to the Licensing Committee the Chairman of the Licensing Committee has also been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers.~~

~~(e) — For matters relating to the Welsh Church Act Estate Committee the Chairman of the Welsh Church Act Estate Committee has also been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers.~~

~~(f) — For matters relating to policy the relevant Scrutiny Committee Chairman has been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers.~~

Signed: M. Punter.....
(Instructing Chief Officer)

Date: 14 May 2020.....

Please print name: ...Miles Punter.....

I hereby approve under my Emergency Powers the attached recommendation(s) on behalf of the Cabinet / Council (please delete as appropriate).

Signed: D.R. Thomas..... **Date:** 15 May 2020.....
Managing Director

NB Should the relevant portfolio Cabinet Member be unable to be consulted only the Leader and / or Deputy Leader be consulted in their absence.

N.B. Cabinet: 23rd March, 2020 Minute No. 295