

Planning Service Parishes Bulletin 33

May 2020

Covid 19 – National Park Update

In response to the government announcement this week relaxing restrictions on travel and limiting time for exercise, the National Park Authority has taken the decision to reopen its 45 car parks as of Wednesday this week (13th May).

This is in order to manage the expected increase in vehicles into the National Park and the lack of public transport available at this time. Opening the car parks should enable us to alleviate some of the impact of traffic and parked vehicles in our many village communities. This action should also help to reduce parking on roadside verges, enable some litter control, reduce risk of accidents and ensure emergency vehicle access.

Within the car parks, other than some initial maintenance to the pay and display machines it is intended that car parks will function as normal, resuming charging as soon as possible. Toilets will continue to remain closed as we are currently unable to undertake the necessary safety and cleaning measures required under government Covid-19 guidance.

Signage has been produced to reflect the new message from government and to reinforce the rules on social distancing. The signage also asks visitors to respect our communities and encourage visitors to take responsibility for litter. The Authority's message also strongly discourages having BBQ's. A PDF file of the sign is attached with this message and may be used in its original form as required within local communities, however as with previous materials we ask that these are not printed as 'flyers' for use on vehicles, and displayed securely to avoid further litter concerns. These messages will also be shared across the Authority's social media and in primary visitor locations.

As well as opening the car parks, a maintenance service will be available at Ashbourne Bike Hire centre. This is not to provide equipment hire, but in order to support cycle repairs and advice in light of the government's proposal for increased walking any cycling to the workplace.

The key message to visitors is that while car parks are opening, the vast majority of facilities, attractions and amenities will not be available. People will be encouraged to continue using local green spaces to enjoy daily exercise for the time being and not to drive into the National Park.

If you have any queries about this bulletin please contact the Planning Liaison officer
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