



Redbourne Parish Council

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GARDENING GROUP RISK ASSESSMENT

Subject of risk assessment:	Gardening (beds and planters), conservation and tree planting		
Brief description of activity, location, feature, activity and equipment used.	Adult facilitated flower/shrub planting in village planters or local green spaces. Adult gardening sessions. Adult conservation activities such as tree planting, weed or shrub clearance.		
Job title and name of person making assessment			
Date of Assessment		Review Date	
<p>Risk Management Statement</p> <p>Redbourne Parish Council recognises that all risks cannot be reduced to nil; therefore, this risk assessment prioritises the significant risks. Significant risks are those which pose risk of serious injury, chronic injury, disability or death, or risks that are overly common in interrupting our Councillors' and volunteers' normal work. However, primarily each person is responsible for their own safety.</p> <p>For all Gardening Group activities, Redbourne Parish Council will dynamically assess risks and put in place control measures and record as required, but always within agreed and recorded Risk Assessment.</p> <p>Concerns, changes in risk management practice or minor injuries that are seen by Redbourne Parish Councillors to be significant should be reported to the Parish Clerk or Chairman.</p> <p>This Risk Assessment should be read in conjunction with Redbourne Parish Council's Health and Safety Policy.</p>			
Activity or feature:	Digging in soil, moving soil, replacing soil, with spades and trowels. Raking and hoeing soil and weeds. Cutting weeds, plants, grass with hand tools. Planting seeds and plants. Hammering in stakes and uprights such as canes. Watering plants and feeding with natural materials. Cutting grass with powered mower. Using powered brush-cutter		

How will participants benefit?	<p>Physical activity.</p> <p>Collaborative activity, learning to work together.</p> <p>Social interaction between participants and local residents.</p> <p>Knowledge about nature, seasons, plant care and understanding of natural cycles such as water, nitrogen, hydrogen etc.</p> <p>Feeling of emotional and physical wellbeing.</p> <p>Learning to experience and manage risks within real contexts.</p>
Who will be at risk?	<p>Redbourne Parish Councillors</p> <p>Volunteers</p> <p>Members of the Public</p>
Possible hazards and risks:	<p>Injuries from tool use, including bruising through being hit accidentally.</p> <p>Cuts from blades or sharp edge of spades etc</p> <p>Cuts, incisions, penetrations, and minor amputations from using scissor tools such as secateurs.</p> <p>Slips, trips, and falls leading to significant injury.</p> <p>Lifting heavy weights / awkward objects such as water containers.</p> <p>Cold and hot weather injuries, including sunburn and hypothermia. Ingestion of dirt, spores, or faecal matter through poor hygiene, leading to infection or upset.</p> <p>Ingestion of inedible seeds, leading to indigestion or upset.</p> <p>Hazards related to crossing roads.</p>
Precautions and control measures to reduce the risk severity or likelihood:	<p>Each Gardening Group activity session will have a nominated leader, who will carry out dynamic risk assessments as required.</p> <p>Knowledge in use of hand tools.</p> <p>Use of gloves where required, to reduce contact with plant sap, stings or abrasions when weeding or lifting.</p> <p>Awareness and briefing of dangers of certain tools – not reaching in holes being dug; keeping fingers away from scissor tools; care when swinging tools such as hammers or spades.</p> <p>Good clothing, suitable to the weather.</p> <p>Tools kept neat and not lying around to be trodden on or tripped over.</p> <p>Restricted use of powered grass cutting mower and brush cutter – only small number of specified, trained individuals allowed to use these items.</p>
Judgement:	<p>Overall, planting, growing and maintaining plants, shrubs and trees is a satisfying activity that engages people with nature.</p> <p>The risks, during a well-managed session, are usually of low consequence, and the few higher consequence hazards can be managed through good practice.</p>

Approved September 2023

To be reviewed annually