PORTISHEAD TOWN COUNCIL – COVID-19 SECURE RISK ASSESSMENT

FACILITITES COVERED: Public Toilets – Wyndham Way Portishead
HAZARD COVERED: Spread of Covid-19 (Coronavirus) by those using the Facilities.
POTENTIAL HARM TO: Public using the public toilets
ASSESSMENT PREPARED: 1 July 2020 **ASSESSMENT LAST UPDATED**:1 July 2020
ASSESSMENT PERFORMED BY: Martin Salisbury

COVID-19 SECURE GUIDELINES:
Premises open to the public should be assessed as **Covid-19 Secure** in accordance with the following 5 key points:
• **Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell:** Nobody should attend the premises if they have symptoms or are self-isolating due to symptoms in their household.
Clean your hands often: Sanitiser should be provided at entry and exit points, sanitiser and/or running water, soap and paper towels in toilets and kitchens. Hot air hand dryers are not recommended as they distribute droplets.
• **Respiratory hygiene:** Everyone needs to be encouraged to avoid touching their mouth, eyes, and nose. Tissues need to be disposed of into a bin, then hands cleaned. An NHS "Catch it, Bin it, Kill it" poster is available.
• **Regular cleaning of surfaces that are touched frequently**: including door handles, handrails, tabletops, sinks, toilet areas, kitchen surfaces.
• **Maintain social distancing where possible:** Social distancing guidelines currently require at least 2 metres (3 steps) to be maintained between individuals and households. Bookings can be accepted for events where social distancing can be maintained, the number of people each person has contact with is reduced to a small group and/or contacts below 2m are minimised and transitory, but crowded events cannot yet be held.

PUBLIC TOILETS GUIDANCE:
This Covid-19 Secure risk assessment is based on Covid-19 Guidance for managing playgrounds and outdoor gyms (section 4 public toilet provision) issued on 26 June and an advice letter from DEFRA on 28 June. The message from the government in that letter being *Public hygiene is of the upmost importance, especially during the coronavirus pandemic, and enabling residents to access toilets safely is vital. Handwashing is an important activity to help prevent the spread of the virus. Closed toilets may also impact disproportionately on certain groups who for health reasons rely on access to public toilets to be able to leave their homes. Public toilets and toilets inside premises should be kept open and carefully managed to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19.*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The public toilets were reopened on 22 June and we consider they are Covid-19 Secure in accordance with the following Risk Assessment and should remain open, subject to weekly periodic review upon inspection by PTC staff to assure compliance with the risk assessment. Approval is sought for expenditure of c£160 to purchase two automated hand sanitisers and anti-bacterial gel to install in each toilet in addition to the hand washing units.

COVID-19 SECURE RISK ASSESSMENT: Public Toilets

Risk/Hazard	Controls Required	Risk Mitigation Action Taken	Action by	Done ✔
Spread of Covid-19 between users of public toilets	Use signs and posters to build awareness of good handwashing technique, the need to increase handwashing frequency and to avoid touching your face, and to cough or sneeze into a tissue which is binned safely, or into your arm if a tissue is not available.	Signage to wash hands for 20 seconds in the automated washers provided and NHS "Catch It, Bin It, Kill It" poster displayed in each toilet.		
	Use of social distancing marking in areas where queues form, and the adoption of a limited entry approach, with one in, one out.	The toilets are single occupancy controlled by a coin operated door. If is difficult to use outside floor markings are the outside area is pavement, but social distancing signs are displayed on each outside door.		
	Consider making hand sanitiser available on entry to toilets where safe and practical and ensure handwashing facilities include running water and liquid soap and suitable options for drying (either paper towels or hand driers are available).	The toilets each have wall mounted stainless steel washer dryer units that dispense soap, water and had drying in an automated cycle. We have also trialled an automated hand sanitiser unit and intend to install one inside each toilet by the exit door to enable hand sanitisation upon leaving and after handling the door.		
	Set clear use and cleaning guidance for toilets, with increased frequency of cleaning in line with usage. Use normal cleaning products, paying attention to frequently hand touched surfaces and	The toilets are cleaned by a reputable external contractor that services around 400 public toilets in the UK. The Contractor has a cleaning protocol that includes cleaning of all hard surfaces and touch points, ensuring the toilet is stocked with soap and other consumables, and rubbish		

	consider the use of disposable cloths or paper roll to clean all hard surfaces.	bins are regularly emptied. It operates under a Service Level Agreement with PTC. The frequency of cleaning has been increased to twice a day, the toilets are cleaned before opening at 9am and again in the period 12pm to 2pm, during the heighted Covid period.		
	Keep the facilities well ventilated, for example by fixing doors open where appropriate.	As the toilet cubicles open directly on to the pavement it is not possible to leave doors open. However, the automated washer dryer provides a throughput of air.		
	Put up a visible cleaning schedule and keep it up to date ad visible	A cleaning schedule and emergency contact number is provided by the contactor in each cubicle.		
	Providing more waste facilities and more frequent rubbish collection.	Each toilet has a large bin that is emptied twice a day.		
	Restrict opening times to ensure proper use and shorter durations between cleans	The toilets have been timed to be open between 9am and 6pm.		
	Ensure the above measures are in operation	The toilets to be checked once a week by a member of PTC staff, in addition to receiving contractor reports.		