

Lochgilphead Paddling Pool

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide details to Members with regards to the safe use of the paddling pool on the front green in Lochgilphead.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Members note the contents of this report

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 This report provides further information to Members of the MAKI Area Committee in relation to the safe operation of the paddling pool in Lochgilphead and where the council might be failing in its duty of care.
- 3.2 The council was contacted by a member of the public in regards to health and safety concerns they had about the way in which the paddling pool was being operated. The existing risk assessment was referenced which highlighted the paddling pool has been in operation without a filtration system being in place.
- 3.3 At present the paddling pool is filled and emptied on a daily basis from the mains water supply. The fact that there is no filtration or circulation system installed means that the risk of waterborne infection being spread to the user group is increased.
- 3.4 Guidance has been taken from advice notes issued by the Institute of Sport and Recreational Management on the operating of public paddling pools.
- 3.5 The guidance notes recommend: (advice notes attached)
- 1, that a public paddling pool should be in operation without a filtration system.
 - 2, staff should be trained in order that a level of supervision can be provided.
 - 3, appropriate signage should be erected and be highly visible.
 - 4, an inspection regime should be in place

5, a cleaning and maintenance programme should be agreed.

3.6 Associated cost with upgrading the paddling pool in order that it is fit for purpose.

1.The cost of installing a new filtration system would start at around £30,000 (telephone quote from Leisure design)

2.Erecting a fence around the perimeter of the pool in order to separate the pool area from the play park area - £2000 approx.

3.Erecting new signage in accordance to guidance. £1000 approx.

4.Training of staff in plant maintenance, H&S and record keeping. £1000 approx.

3.7 Ongoing costs in operating the paddling pool,

1.Preparing pool for use at the start of the day, plant maintenance, daily checks - 2 x man hours per day (when pool is in use)

2.Checking and recording water quality - 1 x man hours per day

3.Cost of chemicals for dosing.

4.Keeping paddling pool and surrounding area clean and tidy - 1 man hours per day.

5.Servicing cost of installed plant. (Weekly, monthly and annually)

All of above could be covered by staff within Amenity Services with the correct training in place; this would however be to the detriment of other tasks as covered by this section.

3.8 An interest has been expressed by a local youth group who would like to work in partnership with the Council on a project to upgrade the existing play area on the front green which could include the paddling pool area. These discussions are at a very early stage. One of the options that could be explored would be to create a splash area within the site incorporating jets / flumes; this in turn reduces the risk of paddling pool contamination and provides a safe water feature within the play park.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The paddling pool should not be reopened to the public until such time a filtration system is installed and safety fencing is erected on site.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Policy: Health & Safety / Environmental

5.2 Financial: Cost to Up-grade

5.3 Legal: N/A

5.4 Risk: Potential of Injury / accident claim

5.5 Customer Service: N/A

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