
HAYLODGE PARK, APPLICATION BY PARKRUN UK

Report by Service Director Assets & Infrastructure

PEEBLES COMMON GOOD FUND SUB COMMITTEE

28 FEBRUARY 2018

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 **This report proposes that the Committee approves an application by Parkrun UK to hold a free weekly run in Haylodge Park.**
- 1.2 Parkrun UK wish to use the park to hold a 5km run every Saturday morning between 9.00am and 10.30am, with spring 2018 given as a prospective starting date.
- 1.3 The run would be held over a defined course on tarmac paths, overseen and marshalled by volunteers.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 **I recommend that the Committee approves an application by Parkrun UK to hold a weekly 5km run at Haylodge Park.**

4 SUBJECT MATTER

- 4.1 Haylodge Park sits at the western edge of Peebles, bounded by Neidpath Road (A72) to the north and the Tweed to the south. It provides an attractive place for recreation and enjoyment for the inhabitants of Peebles and visitors to the town.
- 4.2 The health and safety risk assessment document attached to this report at Appendix II fully describes the health and safety risks that have been identified by the event organiser in relation to this project. Whilst it is the responsibility of the event organiser to ensure that health and safety risk assessments have taken place and participants are aware of their own responsibilities, the Council has a duty to make safe any defects or health and safety concerns directly attributed the park, rather than the activity itself
- 4.3 Parkrun UK approached Scottish Borders Council in October 2017 with a proposal to organise a weekly Saturday morning 5km run around Haylodge Park. A copy of the organiser's application form, covering letter and route plan is attached to this report as Appendix I.
- 4.4 Parkrun UK was founded in 2004 and now organises approximately 500 free 5km runs around the UK, with approximately 1.5 million registered participants. The runs are free to enter, organised and marshalled by volunteers, and open to runners and walkers of all abilities, aged four years and over. There are 28 events in Scotland, but none in the Scottish Borders; the nearest Parkrun event is held at Vogrie Country Park, with an average of 168 participants in the events held this year.
- 4.5 The proposed course is essentially a straight run from the rugby gym to the western end of the park, followed by two laps of the park, with a final half lap to finish at the shelter below the rugby pitches – 5km in total.
- 4.6 The organisers would take responsibility for ensuring that the park is left as it has been found each week, and have provided a health and safety assessment of the potential risks posed to runners, organisers and members of the public in holding the event. A copy of this assessment is attached to this report as Appendix II.
- 4.7 The public toilets in Haylodge Park are open and operated under contract, by the Common Good Committee during the summer months only. If the Parkrun is successful it could attract significant numbers of runners and spectators, and consideration may be required to the opening of the toilets on those winter Saturday mornings when they would otherwise be closed, notwithstanding the financial implications of doing so.
- 4.8 It is proposed that any approval be reviewed quarterly to ensure that the aim of the event – broad based participation in exercise – is being met while complementing the existing uses of the park, and that any conflicts with other park users can be resolved sensibly.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial

There are no costs attached to any of the recommendations contained in this report.

5.2 Risk and Mitigations

The risk assessment document attached to this report at Appendix II fully describes all the elements of risk that have been identified in relation to this project, and no specific additional concerns need be addressed.

5.3 Equalities

No adverse equality implications are envisaged.

5.4 Acting Sustainably

There are no economic, social or environmental effects envisaged.

5.5 Carbon Management

There are no significant effects on carbon emissions.

5.6 Rural Proofing

None.

5.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There are no changes to be made.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Service Director HR, Corporate Communications and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

Martin Joyce

Service Director Assets & Infrastructure

Signature

Author(s)

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Background Papers: None

Previous Minute Reference: Item 6. 29 November 2017

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