

Safe system of Gardening phase 1, May, June 2020

Overview

Following the coronavirus lockdown the gardening tasks were put on hold, causing there to be many gardening jobs to be caught up with.

In light of the coronavirus restrictions and with the safety of the volunteers in mind, this plan has been drafted to outline a way to address the situation.

Prerequisites

The garden tool store is generally closed to members by order of the general committee. However to complete the gardening tasks the team will need.

- Authorisation for one person to enter the garden tool store and retrieve any tools necessary.
- Authorisation for one person to operate the lawn mower.

Plan

Rose to Lead the Gardening. Or allocate a deputy.

Lead Gardener to assess the jobs to be done and allocate with no more than 3 persons on any task.

Times and dates of gardening dependent upon weather and availability of volunteers.

Broad plan

- The leader to brief the team on safe practice relevant to Covid at the start of the session, or when there are new members to the group.
- Lead gardener (or appointed deputy) to be present at the beginning of each session.
- One person allocated to enter garden store and retrieve tools needed.

- All equipment handles to be cleaned with disinfectant.
- One allocated person to put tools away.
- All gardeners be given a briefing on the task allocated to them.

Due to lockdown no gardening has been undertaken for a while, so the extent of the workload will be assessed as the job progresses this depends upon the amount of weed and growth that becomes apparent, also upon the number of volunteers who are able to attend.

A point to be aware of is that some of the regular gardeners might be in the vulnerable group, and so unable to take such an active role as usual, therefore a call amongst the general membership may be made.

Volunteers Equipment

From the garden shed various tools, and the lawn mower.

Volunteers to bring:

- Sturdy footwear
- Gardening gloves
- Own hand tools if they wish.
- Hand sanitiser.

Face masks are not listed as the tasks are outdoors, and only one person will be entering the building – see Covid risk mitigation plan.

This is an outdoor activity with 2-3 participants working in any given area, there will be little Covid cross contamination risk in general

Activity	Risks	mitigation
Retrieving and returning tools from store	Close contact in enclosed space Surface contamination, equipment , door handles etc.	Only one person to enter store, retrieving and returning equipment for other to use Person will then disinfect any surface touched. The risk on external surfaces is reduced due to the action of sunlight, so if a tool has not been touched for 72 hours, risks are also lower

Moving about the site in General	Close contact	Everybody will maintain social distance at all times.
Set up Lawn mower	Surface contamination	Only one person should use the lawnmower.
Record Keeping		A record shall be kept of everybody participating in the working party. Should any person display any symptoms in the days following participation they must inform Grace so that their team-mates can be informed of the potential risk to their infection