

## Agenda item 9

### For information - Health & Safety update

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#### Summary

This standing report to the Council Matters Committee provides updates on the following:

1. Health & Safety (accidents and incidents)
2. Liability claims
3. Property claims
4. Risk management

A version of this update was presented and discussed at the Council meeting on 24 June.

This happened because our meeting schedule had been changed in response to the coronavirus pandemic; and both the Council Matters and Town Matters committees had been suspended.

Now the Council Matters meetings have resumed, the update has been included here for completeness and good record keeping.

There are also some changes to the update presented at Council; these are all contained in the Risk management section of the report; and the changes have been clearly highlighted and described.

There are no changes in sections 1 to 3 of the report; these appear exactly as they did in the report to Council last month.

#### 1. Health & Safety

##### Accidents and incidents

- a. We have received confirmation from Zurich and Weightmans solicitors that the person who reported an accident on a footpath near Lower Innox is no longer seeking damages from FTC. As such this case has been closed (for FTC) This reflects our original assertion that the path in question is not one that we look after.
- b. Although we were made aware of an accident that happened at the Old Showfield on the same day as our Apple Day event, we haven't heard anything more about this; and we have never been formally approached with any information (or questions; or reports). As such, this will be the last update on this accident, unless the situation changes.
- c. Following the storm damage to a Cypress tree in Victoria Park mid-February, we have:
  - Made good the metal fencing around the children's picnic and play area
  - Repaired the timber fence of a neighbouring property in Weymouth Road
  - Had the trees in this part of the park independently re-surveyed
  - Completed the recommended tree works in this part of the park

## 2. Liability claims

### Existing claims

The accident along the riverside path between Weylands and Welshmill that was reported in December 2017 remains open and remains with Zurich on behalf of FTC.

### New claims

The Council hasn't received any new liability claims since the last Council Matters meeting on 26 February 2020.

And as noted above at 1a; the injured party is no longer seeking damages from FTC; so, we are not expecting a claim in respect of this accident.

## 3. Property claims

Nothing to report.

## 4. Risk management

Necessarily and rightly, a number of new task risk assessments have been prepared to reflect our work responding to the coronavirus emergency.

This has included updated risk assessments for the Rangers' work in the town, and risk assessments for FTC's food delivery service and our volunteer matching scheme.

More broadly, we have been trying to keep people up to date with the Government's guidance; especially as it relates to parks and green spaces.

### Updated since the report to Council

Up until Saturday 4 July, our play areas and outdoor gyms remained closed. As of Saturday 4 July - in line with Government guidance - we've re-opened our play areas and outdoor gyms. This step was taken following detailed reading of Government guidance and the drafting of new risk assessments.

We're also promoting a Stay safe - Play safe message that places an emphasis on personal responsibility; this allows parents and guardians to make informed choices about the risks based on clear information. Including information about what we're not doing.

Elsewhere, site risk assessments will be updated as we resume the review schedule of our management plans.

We're also beginning to think about how we might return to the Town Hall in the future; and this process will see new risk assessments for the building and FTC's everyday (office-based) work.