

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

1. Accidents and incidents

Via Mendip District Council, we've received an email suggesting that a branch or branches might have fallen from a tree in the woods off Welshmill Road, damaging a parked car beneath.

We've contacted the person who sent the email to MDC to try to find out more about this; and we're completing an inspection of the trees alongside the road so we can update our site risk assessment here - and take any actions felt necessary.

We've also received reports from the Police about groups and individuals failing to adhere to the Government's lockdown guidance and restrictions in the town's parks and green spaces.

A number of these incidents have been at the skatepark in Mary Baily; and because of this we have now fenced off the skatepark.

2. Liability claims

Existing claims

The accident along the riverside path between Weylands and Welshmill that was reported in December 2017 remains open.

However, a settlement offer has been now made through Zurich and Weightmans (our insurers and solicitors, respectively)

As such, we are waiting to hear back whether the offer has been accepted.

New claims

The Council hasn't received any new liability claims since the last Council Matters meeting on 4 November 2020.

3. Property claims

We are in the process of submitting property damage claims in respect of the vandalised stone wall near the pump track at Welshmill.

We've been delayed in organising these repairs because of how busy our local stonemasons are (with most catching up on missed or rescheduled work from the previous lockdowns)

4. Risk management

We're continuing to write and update a variety of risk assessments as we respond to the coronavirus emergency and lockdown.

This includes looking at activities and events happening in the parks and green spaces.

It also includes regular checks on the coronavirus risk assessment for the Rangers' work (since reasonably and sensibly, the Rangers cannot work from home)

Site risk assessments are being updated now that we've resumed the review schedule of our management plans.