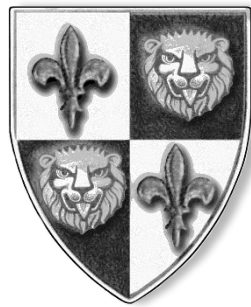
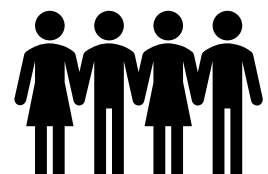


SHAFTESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

*Delivering Excellence across the
Shaftesbury Community*



Disposable BBQ Policy



Date of Adoption: 27th July 2021

Review Date: July 2024

Managing People Policies



1. Introduction

- 1.1. The policy is to prohibit the use of disposable BBQs at any of Shaftesbury Town Council's parks and land.
- 1.2. The Policy will be used by officers and the grounds team within Shaftesbury Town Council to reinforce the clear and consistent message relating to disposable BBQ's use.
- 1.3. The policy will enable Shaftesbury Town Council to carry out public communications highlighting this policy to residents, visitors, businesses and organisations.

2. The Policy will affect:

- 2.1. All Open Spaces and Parks owned by Shaftesbury Town Council; the full list can be found on the website. www.shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk
- 2.2. Key areas will include; Wincombe Recreation Ground, St James' Park, Barton Hill and Castle Hill

3. Criteria for deciding if a site should allow/ban disposable BBQ and campfires/wildfires:

- Habitat type – Is the habitat susceptible to wildfire? (Example; long meadow grassland would be considered at risk. Amenity grassland, would be low risk)
- Have there been any incidents of wildfire within the past 5 years?
- Is the site vulnerable to antisocial behaviour?
- Is there good emergency access onto the site?
- What is the fuel load like? (is the vegetation dense/thick without any fuel breaks, are the species highly flammable? Example, gorse)
- Is there any contamination on site that would increase risk (example: old landfill site)?
- Neighbouring land use should be considered. Does it increase the risk? (Example; residential area)

4. Does this policy relate to any laws?

- 4.1. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act) Schedule 2 prohibits activities including that "a person cannot light or tend a fire or undertake any act which is likely to cause a fire."
- 4.2. The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 covers damage to a SSSI and a person found to have intentionally or recklessly caused destruction or damage can be prosecuted and fined. Dorset Council and/or Natural England may enforce these provisions and institute proceedings for any offence.

5. The Issue

- 5.1. With increased temperatures during the summer months there is an increased risk of wildfires. The better weather means that more people are spending more time eating outdoors and with the price and availability of disposable BBQ's it has meant that there has been a huge increase in their use. This has led to a significant increase in fires related to disposable BBQs generally in Dorset.
- 5.2. The risks from disposable BBQ's not being disposed of correctly or not being extinguished correctly include:
 - Fire risk to properties and infrastructure near places that are considered high risk.
 - Risk to life from wildfire.
 - Risk to staff that's not necessarily life threatening, such as burns and smoke inhalation.
 - Risks to rescue services when having to deal with wildfires.
 - Fire risk damaging habitats and species.





- Risks to livestock and animal health through fire risk.
- Impacts on the environment e.g. littering on land, discarded coals in the soil and in lakes.
- Impact to other users of the sites, such as the smoke generated by BBQs.

6. National Policy

- 6.1. The UK Government currently has no policy on disposable BBQ's and campfires although there is mounting pressure from others for such bans to be put in place.
- 6.2. July 2020 Rebecca Pow (Conservative) stated "There are existing powers in legislation which can be used by authorities to regulate and prohibit the lighting of fires on Access Land in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and National Parks. Current 'Byelaw' legislation allows for local authorities to restrict and enforce the use of disposable barbecues in parks and public spaces. The Government has no plans for additional legislative proposals to introduce a seasonal ban on the use of disposable barbecues.....an updated Countryside Code which advises not to have barbecues or fires is being produced" <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-07-01/67540>

7. Challenges

- 7.1. The main challenge of introducing this policy is the issue of enforcement. While enforcement can be difficult having a clear policy means that there is a clear and consistent message from Shaftesbury Town Council that can be cited by the staff working and by local Police Officers or Police Community Support Officers. This greatly helps with enforcing this policy and provides the backing from Shaftesbury Town Council to approach members of the public who are not adhering to or aware of the rules.
- 7.2. Effective communications around the policy and visible signage will help overcome any challenges.

8. Litter and Waste

- 8.1. This policy will help with litter issues associated with disposable BBQ's that are not disposed of responsibly as well as reduce the amount of waste in public bins.

9. Monitoring, Assessment & Review

- 9.1. The Council will have clear signage and messaging at each site and be available on the website, and associated websites, relating to the prohibited use of disposable BBQ's. They will inform any group event taking place on Shaftesbury Town Council land.

10. Review

- 10.1. This Policy will be reviewed every 2 years.

