

Document Control

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WOODTON PARISH COUNCIL

Barbecue Guidelines & Risk Assessment

Woodton Community Wood

1. Introduction

Woodton Parish Council recognises the positive benefits that public barbecues provide to residents and visitors. To support safe and enjoyable community use, the Council has installed three purpose-made barbecue stations within Woodton Community Wood.

Barbecuing can be an enjoyable social activity; however, it presents significant risks, including fire hazards, burns, and food safety concerns. These guidelines set out the required risk assessment considerations and control measures to ensure that barbecues are conducted safely, responsibly, and without nuisance or damage to the Community Wood or other users.

All persons organising or conducting a barbecue at Woodton Community Wood must follow these guidelines.

2. Risk Assessment Requirements

Any individual or group intending to hold a barbecue must undertake a risk assessment prior to the event. The risk assessment should consider the following hazards:

2.1 Hazards

- Risk of fire to adjacent buildings, vegetation, flammable materials, or substances
- Burns to individuals involved in cooking or nearby
- Risk of food poisoning, particularly affecting vulnerable groups (elderly persons, young children, and those with compromised immune systems)
- Manual handling injuries when transporting equipment and supplies

3. Control Measures

3.1 Equipment Safety

- Visually inspect all equipment before use to ensure it is in good working condition.
- Do not use damaged or unstable equipment.

3.2 Location of the Barbecue

Barbecues must:

- Be used only at the three designated purpose-built barbecue stations.
- Be located away from buildings, combustible materials, flammable substances, long dry grass, and gas points.
- Stand on a flat, firm base.
- Allow clear access and exit routes at all times.
- Have a barrier (e.g., tables or portable fencing) where necessary to prevent unauthorised persons from approaching too closely.

If part of a larger gathering, organisers must consider:

- Safe pedestrian and vehicle routes
- Location of other activities or attractions
- Emergency access and fire assembly points

3.3 Lighting the Barbecue

- Use only sufficient charcoal to cover the base to approximately 50mm (2 inches).
- Do not use liquid fuels.
- Use recognised firelighters only and the minimum amount necessary.
- Never use petrol or other accelerants.
- Remove matches or lighting implements immediately after ignition.
- Allow flames to die down and coals to turn grey before cooking.
- Keep a bucket of water or sand available for emergency use at all times.

3.4 Food Safety & Cooking

The person responsible for cooking must:

- Be competent and capable of safely managing the barbecue.
- Wait until charcoal has a powdery grey surface before cooking.
- Ensure all food is fully thawed before cooking.
- Keep raw meat covered and stored in a cool box.
- Never apply marinade used on raw meat after cooking.
- Ensure food is piping hot throughout before serving.
 - Meat must show no pinkness in the centre.
 - Juices must run clear.
- Use suitable personal protective equipment (PPE), including aprons and heat-resistant gloves or mitts.
- Use long-handled utensils or tongs to handle food safely.

3.5 Extinguishing the Barbecue

- Allow charcoal to cool completely where possible.
- If necessary, extinguish with cold water.
- Dispose of cold ash in a trade waste bin only.
- Do not empty ash onto soil or within the Community Wood.
- Never place hot ashes in a dustbin or wheelie bin, as this may cause fire or melt plastic containers.

4. General Conduct & Responsibilities

- Never leave a barbecue unattended.
- Keep children, pets, and games well away from the cooking area.
- Ensure glass bottles and containers are removed from site and disposed of safely.
- All litter and refuse must be removed from the site and taken home.
- Under no circumstances should litter be left beside the barbecues.

5. Event Size Restriction

Gatherings must not exceed 20 persons.

Any gathering of more than twenty (20) persons constitutes an Open Space Event and requires prior written permission from Woodton Parish Council.

6. Compliance

Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in withdrawal of permission to use the barbecue facilities and/or further action by the Parish Council where appropriate.

7. Contact Information

Issued by:

Woodton Parish Council

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