

**Policy on the Use and Charging for Southwell’s Parks and Green Spaces
including the War Memorial Recreation Ground**

Southwell is fortunate in having many parks and green spaces which are in the care of Southwell Town Council (STC). They provide recreation areas for residents. Some areas are reserved for individual recognised club sports such as the Bowls Club and Tennis Club, while some areas are maintained to facilitate football. STC receive payment for this maintenance.

There are a number of different anticipated uses of the parks and green spaces both commercial and charitable. They have been used for sports, food stalls and fairs. The health benefits of spending time outdoors are well known and while it is difficult to foresee every eventuality, it is anticipated that the usage will increase. This policy seeks to clarify STC’s position on the use of the areas under its control and the manner in which charges would be determined.

The reserved areas have special arrangements for them in terms of maintenance with, in the case of

football, the Clubs paying the Town Council for rent of the pitch, and for the specialized treatment that the

pitch[es] get on request. We also try to help our residents by encouraging refreshment facilities to trade,

the mobile food vans on our land are subject to different and specific financial arrangements.

STC reserves the right to hire out the parks and green spaces under its care for specific events, either commercial or charitable. The costs for this are outlined in our hire policies, but should a request fall outside of the normal price structure, the following considerations should be made when deciding the charge:

* Are the direct and/or indirect cost to STC met?
* Are residents unable to use the parks/green spaces as usual?
* Are residents adversely impacted outside of the areas by parking or sound etc.?

The greater the impact to STC and residents, the greater the charge for the event.

If STC considers that any event will have a significant impact on the maintenance of the land, it may seek a refundable deposit. STC’s Clerk has the authority to stop any event if they have concerns about safety or damage to STC property/land.

Residents who use the park for sport and exercise are welcome. However, risks to other users must be mitigated. For example, golfers must ensure that their play is safe (e.g., with no persons present in line with their balls intended or actual direction) and at their own liability. And any damage caused (such as divots etc.) must be repaired at the time.

The areas which feature play equipment are specifically excluded from this policy.