



Parkrun UK

Parkrun organise weekly 5km timed runs around the UK, they are open to everyone with no limitation to the number of runners that can participate. The Parish Council has hosted Parkrun for the last three years and with the increased wear on the park has requested Parkrun to contribute a small monetary amount towards the upkeep to which they have refused stating they are free of charge and cannot pay.

Why should Parkrun UK contribute towards Little Stoke Park Maintenance?

- Parkrun are an organised group with paid directors and staff and attract over 300 runners using the park & facilities each week.
- There is no limit to the number of runners that use the park.
- They are sponsored by national companies.
- They monopolise the park paths and car park between 0830 & 1030 each Saturday and Sunday.
- They use the parks toilets and washing facilities.
- They use Council storage space.
- A large number of runners are from outside the Parish of Stoke Gifford and come from all across South Gloucestershire, Bristol and further afield to use the facilities in this area (which are financed by Stoke Gifford Council tax payers).
- Little Stoke car park is too small for their parking use.
- Complaints have been received from local residents relating to pavement & grass verge parking, park users and hall hirers regarding a number of incidents involving runners over the last three years.

Parkrun are an organised group and like any other group using the facilities should contribute towards the maintenance.

The Parish Council has only recently paid out £55,000 from public funds for resurfacing the car park and with the additional 300+ runners per week, will shortly need to replace / repair the path at an estimated cost of £60,000, so as Parkrun are significant users of the path on a regular basis they should contribute towards the upkeep.

As a Parish Council we are proud of our green open spaces and believe in giving ‘value for money’ to our residents and through stringent fiscal control this has been achieved by keeping the precept to a minimum over several years which is evidenced by the Parish Council being amongst the lowest tax rises across South Gloucestershire. Should we continue to support ‘free of charge groups’ then it is very likely the precept will increase each year resulting in residents funding additional maintenance / repairs caused by runners from outside our area.

To conclude, Parkrun maintain it is their ethos to remain ‘free of charge’ and have repeatedly stated they will not pay towards the upkeep even when the council offered to complete a grant application on their behalf and all that was required was their signature. The Parish Council cannot & will not stop people from using the parks for exercise & running but when it comes to an organisation with paid directors, fund raisers and sponsors it would be unfair to expect the resident’s to pay.

Chair, Stoke Gifford Parish Council