

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**COALVILLE SPECIAL EXPENSES WORKING PARTY –
TUESDAY, 10 JUNE 2025**



Title of Report	COALVILLE PARK – JUNIOR PARKRUN
Presented by	Emma Knight Health and Wellbeing Team Leader
Background Papers	Health and Wellbeing Strategy - North West Leicestershire District Council North West Leicestershire Community Health and Wellbeing Plan - North West Leicestershire District Council How do we deliver? Active Together – Active Together Framework 2.11 Risk Assessments – parkrun Volunteer Hub
Financial Implications	To deliver parkrun there is a one-off set up fee of £4,500. In 2018/19 through Leicestershire County Council's (LCC) Sport and Physical Activity Commissioning process North West Leicestershire District Council's (NWLDC) Health and Wellbeing Team identified parkrun as a project and were granted £7,000 to deliver the project. LCC has allowed the roll over of the funds until a time that the Council could identify a suitable venue. The £4,500 set up fee will be funded through this allocation. The remaining £2,500 will support officer costs to initiate the programme. Therefore, there will be no setup costs or ongoing additional costs to the Council or Coalville Special Expenses.
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes
Legal Implications	NWLDC will support the initiation of the programme. Typically, parkrun model relies on a group of volunteers coming together to initiate a parkrun. The Health and Wellbeing Team identified a gap in provision in NWL with no junior parkrun. LCC commission NWLDC to deliver physical activity initiatives to address health inequalities. As part of this commissioning LCC agreed to fund a junior parkrun to benefit NWL and provide a free initiative to support the health and wellbeing of residents. Therefore the initiation of junior parkrun, in this instance, sits with the council. Once set up it will be the responsibility of parkrun and their volunteers to deliver. A hire agreement will be in place between the Council and Coalville junior parkrun,

	which will be delivered and managed by volunteers. Coalville parkrun will be responsible for the health and safety. No events will be delivered until the volunteer group are established, licenced and trained. Therefore NWLDC will run no junior parkruns, the role of the council will be to provide the venue only. Junior parkrun would take place on Council land who will have legal obligations to provide a safe venue. This means, for example, that the venue should be kept in a state of good repair, free from hazards or mitigations to reduce hazards in line with the daily maintenance and running of the site. The Council has suitable public liability insurance in the event of not meeting of an incident as a result of issues with the venue. Parkrun also hold public liability insurance to cover any aspects that are their responsibility. They take full responsibility of the event. NWLDC will undertake a risk assessment in addition to a risk assessment undertaken by parkrun.
	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes/No
Staffing and Corporate Implications	NWLDC Health and Wellbeing Team Leader and a Health and Wellbeing Development Officer will support the initiation of the junior parkrun and be a point of contact for parkrun and their volunteers thereafter. Some minor additional tasks will be asked of Parks Team, as highlighted in the report, but will not result in an increase in staffing.
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes/No
Purpose of Report	To seek support to deliver a junior parkrun weekly, 9am on a Sunday morning at Coalville Park. Parkruns are expected to run every week, 52 weeks of the year unless the park is to be used otherwise, such as an event or if poor weather or any other unexpected circumstances require parkrun to be cancelled.
Recommendations	THAT COALVILLE SPECIAL EXPENSES WORKING PARTY RECOMMENDS TO CABINET TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL TO DELIVER A WEEKLY JUNIOR PARKRUN AT COALVILLE PARK.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Junior parkrun is a free weekly community intervention for children ages 4 to 14 years old offering a 2km (1.25 mile) run on Sunday mornings at 9am. It is a fun way for children to be active and encourages participation from the whole family in physical activity, whether it be jogging, walking, volunteering or spectating.

- 1.2 Junior parkrun is designed to be inclusive, welcoming participants of all abilities and backgrounds. Junior parkrun is open to juniors aged 4-14years old.
- 1.3 Currently there is no junior parkrun in North West Leicestershire (NWL) with the closest parkrun venues being Watermead Country Park in Leicester (15miles and approx. 30 minute drive time) and Swadlincote (11 miles away, approximately 25 minute drive time).
- 1.4 Watermead Country Park tends to attract between 100-130 participants and Swadlincote averages 70 participants. It is not unreasonable to expect Coalville to attract similar numbers to Swadlincote given that there is no other junior parkrun in the area.
- 1.5 Parkrun is a well-established organisation delivering a high-quality offer across the UK. A junior parkrun in NWL would provide the local community with an opportunity to support:
- Improved physical activity and health
 - Enhanced wellbeing
 - Stronger family bonds
 - Community connection
 - Increased volunteer opportunities
 - Mental health
 - Confidence for future engagement activities and opportunities
- 1.6 The outcomes that junior parkrun aims to achieve (as outlined above) support Council priorities of Community and Housing. It supports delivery of a priority in the NWLDC Health and Wellbeing Strategy - Every child will have the best possible start in life. It also supports delivery of the NWL Community Health and Wellbeing Plan, as adopted by the Council, of tackling health inequalities relating to the priorities of Obesity and Overweight, Mental Health, Diabetes and Disability.
- 1.7 NWLDC has a history of initiating parkrun in the district. In April 2011, the Health and Wellbeing Team (then Sport and Physical Activity Team) supported the initiation of adult parkrun at Conkers. This has been a huge success and the Conkers parkrun prides itself in being one of the most inclusive parkrun venues in the UK. 14 years on and it attracts between 400 and 700 participants weekly.

2.0 COALVILLE JUNIOR PARKRUN

- 2.1 In 2018/19, NWLDC's Health and Wellbeing Team secured funding from Leicestershire County Council (LCCC) to initiate a junior parkrun in the district as an intervention to help tackle inactivity in children. However, as the district is in the heart of the National Forest it has proven difficult to identify a venue. The density of trees at most sites poses an issue, preventing marshals from always seeing the runners as the trees present too many blind spots.
- 2.2 LCC has allowed the Health and Wellbeing Team to 'roll over' the funding each year until a suitable venue could be identified. Recently both Hermitage Eco Park and Coalville Park have had new paths installed providing two potential venues for junior parkrun.

- 2.3 After assessment of both sites the most suitable venue for junior parkrun is Coalville Park. The following attributes make Coalville Park a suitable venue:
- Paths around the circumference of the park
 - Onsite toilets
 - Onsite disabled parking
 - Parking available close by on London Road
 - The park is welcoming and picturesque
 - There is a play area for siblings under 4 to access
 - Onsite CCTV
 - Central to Coalville
 - Is close to areas of high deprivation allowing access to free activity.
- 2.4 NWLDC will support the initiation of Coalville junior parkrun by covering the set up costs using external funding, identifying a core team of volunteers to deliver Coalville junior parkrun and providing a venue in Coalville Park. NWLDC will also promote Coalville junior parkrun through normal communication channels.

3.0 REQUIREMENTS

To deliver a parkrun the following is required:

- Funding to cover the setup fee - NWLDC secured funding through the LCC Sport and Physical Activity Commissioning in 2018/19
- Venue to host a weekly parkrun - Coalville Park has been identified as a suitable venue
- Junior parkrun team (a minimum of eight volunteers including a run director and two race directors) - through low key conversations four volunteers have expressed an interest in volunteering including one as run director and one as race director. If there are not the minimum number of volunteers required on a Sunday the parkrun would not be able to go ahead. Therefore, the number of volunteers in a team is greater than the number required on the day.
- Equipment and licences – provided by parkrun as part of the setup fee. This would be provided by parkrun to volunteers upon payment of the set up fee. Coalville parkrun will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance and safety of equipment.
- Participants - Parkrun will advertise in line with their advertising policy. NWLDC will also promote through standard communication methods.

4.0 DELIVERY OF JUNIOR PARKRUN

- 4.1 Parkrun has viewed the site and agrees that the site is suitable, meeting the safeguarding requirements required to deliver a Junior Parkrun.
- 4.2 Coalville junior parkrun will be delivered by parkrun and their trained volunteers. Volunteers are trained by parkrun and have continued access to their volunteer Hub. NWLDC will not be responsible for the delivery or running of the Junior Parkrun, however the Health and Wellbeing Team will support and

quality spot check the initiative. The Health and Wellbeing Team will be quality checking against the Council's risk assessment, parkrun's risk assessment and overall quality against the standards set out by parkrun on their website and in the hire agreement. The Health and Wellbeing Team is experienced in delivering physical activity interventions across the district ranging from exercise classes to mass participation events.

- 4.3 There will be some additional responsibility of the Park's Officers. It will take place during normal opening time of the park, however, vehicular access through the main gates must be restricted whilst participants are on site. Closing one of the gates during this time would prevent access. Toilets will be required to be opened and closed, and some small storage will be required on site. These requirements will not require additional staffing and can be accommodated by the Parks and Open Spaces team.
- 4.4 Parkrun will be responsible for health and safety, completing risk assessments and holds public liability insurance of £12,000,000.
- 4.5 Junior parkrun will be delivered weekly on a Sunday at 9am except for when the park is in use for events such as Picnic in the Park. Therefore will run 52 weeks of the year except for when the park is otherwise in use for events or if poor weather or other unexpected circumstances arise.
- 4.6 In order to relieve pressure from Coalville Park and the surrounding streets, participants will be signposted to park at London Road car park and to walk down to the park for the parkrun. The car park is free to use on Sunday mornings.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 NWLDC received £7,000 to initiate a junior parkrun within the district in 2018/19. This funding has been earmarked until a suitable venue could be identified.
- 5.2 A sum of £4,500 is required as a setup fee for parkrun to make available the equipment, licences, training and resources for parkrun volunteers. A further sum of £2,500 will be used to meet NWLDC Officer costs to support the setting up of the initiative.
- 5.3 As all set up costs are being funded externally and the event will be delivered weekly on a volunteer basis, there will be no cost to the Council or the Coalville Special Expense budget for the setting up or ongoing running of the initiative.
- 5.4 No hire costs would be sought from parkrun as it is a charitable organisation that relies solely on volunteers and does not have funding to hire facilities. In return junior parkrun provides significant benefits to the residents of the district.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Parkrun will be required to complete a full risk assessment of the site. They are an experienced organisation that run parkrun and junior parkrun across the UK and worldwide. They have a robust safeguarding policy and all volunteers are trained to a high standard. They are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults at risk ensuring

a safe and supportive environment for all and take responsibility and liability for delivery. Parkrun holds public liability insurance of £12,000,000.

- 6.2 Children under the age of 11 must have an adult remain on site and volunteer marshals will be posted and suitable points around the site. Volunteer first aiders and a defib are always present.
- 6.3 Safeguarding of participants will be the responsibility of parkrun and ensure the venue is safe to use before each parkrun. However, NWLDC has a responsibility to ensure that the venue is kept in a good state of repair.
- 6.4 Parkrun issues a licence allowing the course to take place at Coalville Park.
- 6.5 Both the Council and parkrun hold the required public liability insurance. Parkrun holds liability insurance up to £12,000,000

7.0 NEXT STEPS

- 7.1 The table below outlines the next steps:

Action	Date
Parks Team will continue to be engaged and consulted throughout the process	Ongoing
Coalville Special Expense Working Party minutes are to be presented to Cabinet, linked to this report and will consider the recommendations.	29 July 2025
NWLDC and parkrun to host a joint engagement event at the end of June with the public aiming to raise awareness and sign up further volunteers.	Early August 2025
Parkrun to complete their health and safety process inc. full risk assessment and provide this and any other required information such as public liability insurance to the Council's Health and Wellbeing Team.	August 2025
NWLDC to pay the setup fee to parkrun	September 2025
Volunteers to complete parkrun volunteer process (such as Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) safeguarding checks, training etc.)	September 2025
NWLDC and parkrun to agree a start date and promote launch of junior parkrun appropriately within parkrun and NWLDC communication guidelines	October 2025
Start weekly junior parkrun	To be decided but hopefully November 2025
Monitor, evaluate and communicate success and learning	Ongoing from launch date

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate

Council Priorities:	Communities and housing
Policy Considerations:	NWL Health and Wellbeing Strategy NWL Community Health and Wellbeing Plan Active Together Framework
Safeguarding:	Coalville Park has been identified as a suitable site by the Health and Wellbeing Team, parkrun have viewed the site and agree that the site is suitable, meeting the safeguarding requirements required to run Junior Parkrun. Coalville Park also has three CCTV cameras that are in operation on a Sunday. See also section 6 – Legal Implications
Equalities/Diversity:	Junior Parkrun has a positive impact on equalities and diversity. Junior parkrun is specifically designed to be inclusive and welcoming of participants of all abilities and backgrounds. Coalville Park has been chosen due to the paths in situ, which provides a stable surface that can be used year-round and allows buggies and wheelchairs. There is also onsite disabled parking.
Customer Impact:	Junior Parkrun typically lasts around half an hour. Some residents that use the park at this time may not be able to access the park as they would do ordinarily. However, public access remains in place and the public still have the right to access the park. The Council would develop some communications to ask all users to be respectful of one another. Some residential housing is located close to the park; however, the junior parkrun does not present high levels of noise and is short in duration. Other than disabled parking onsite, the Council will direct all other participants to use London Road car park which is a short walk from Coalville Park to avoid on street parking. Overflow parking

	can be sought at the shopping centre and town centre. Participants will also be encouraged to use active travel as their mode of transport or car share.
Economic and Social Impact:	There is little economic impact, however, it would be bringing visitors into the town centre which may benefit smaller convenience stores that are open on a Sunday morning. There is a trend to participate in as many different parkrun courses as possible, therefore it may support the visitor economy. Junior parkrun has a positive social impact, enhancing wellbeing and community ties for children and families. Research shows that nine in 10 children feel happy and proud after participating, with a significant percentage experiencing increased physical activity and social connection. Junior parkrun supports family bonding with many families reporting stronger community connections and improved family time. Studies also show that junior parkrun can help children build confidence, self esteem and reduce feelings of anxiety and stress. Parkrun also provides volunteering opportunities for the local community.
Environment, Climate Change and Zero Carbon	Junior Parkrun will bring people into the town centre and many of them may travel by car. To mitigate this, the Council will encourage active travel and car sharing. Scooter parking is soon to be installed at the park; children will be encouraged to travel to the park by scooter. Currently the nearest junior parkrun is 11 miles away, approximately 25 minute drive. Those residents currently accessing that venue would have a closer venue to use, therefore potentially reducing drive time and carbon emissions. Otherwise, junior parkrun has low environmental impact, and the course will only use designated footpaths.
Consultation/Community/Tenant Engagement:	Planning a public engagement event early August, with the support of the Communications Team.
Risks:	

	Parkrun is responsible for delivery on the day. However, there is some liability risk to the Council as the course is on Council land. Therefore, there is the risk that accidents may occur and the Council may be at fault if down to the condition of the venue, such as slips/trips/falls. There will also be a reputational risk to the Council if Coalville junior parkrun is not delivered well.
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