

# Langley Parish Council Planters Risk Assessment 2018



Subject of risk assessment:	Gardening (planters), conservation and tree planting		
Brief description of activity, location, feature, activity and equipment used.	<p>Adult facilitated flower/shrub planting in village planters or local green spaces.</p> <p>Adult gardening sessions.</p> <p>Adult conservation activities such as weed or shrub clearance.</p>		
Job title and name of person making assessment	Helen Anderson (Parish Clerk)		
Date of Assessment	19 October 2018	Review Date	May 2019
Name of senior manager:	Cheryl Taylor-Maggio (Chairman)	:	

## Risk Management Statement

Langley Parish Council recognises that all risks cannot be reduced to nil; therefore this risk assessment prioritises the significant risks. Significant risks are those which pose risk of serious injury, chronic injury, disability or death, or risks that are overly common in interrupting our Councillors and volunteers normal work.

For all activities, Langley Parish Council will dynamically assess risks and put in place control measures and record as required, but always within agreed and recorded Risk Assessment.

Concerns, changes in risk management practice or minor injuries that are seen by Langley Parish Councillors to be significant should be reported to the Parish Clerk or Chairman.

**This Risk Assessment should be read in conjunction with Langley Parish Council's Health and Safety Policy.**

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Activity or feature:	Digging in soil, moving soil, replacing soil, with spades and trowels. Raking and hoeing soil and weeds. Cutting weeds, plants, grass with hand tools (not powered). Planting seeds and plants. Hammering in stakes and uprights such as canes. Watering plants and feeding with natural materials.
How will participants benefit?	Physical activity. Collaborative activity, learning to work together. Social interaction between participants and local residents. Knowledge about nature, seasons, plant care and understanding of natural cycles such as water, nitrogen, hydrogen etc. Feeling of emotional and physical wellbeing. Learning to experience and manage risks within real contexts.
Who will be at risk?	Langley Parish Councillors Volunteers
Any local factors that may affect risks or controls:	Kent Highways Highway Regulations.
Possible hazards and risks:	Injuries from tool use, including bruising through being hit accidentally. Cuts from blades or sharp edge of spades etc Cuts, incisions, penetrations and minor amputations from using scissor tools such as secateurs. Slips, trips and falls leading to significant injury. Lifting heavy weights / awkward objects such as water containers. Cold and hot weather injuries, including sunburn and hypothermia. Ingestion of dirt, spores or faecal matter through poor hygiene, leading to infection or upset. Ingestion of inedible seeds, leading to indigestion or upset.
Precautions and control measures to reduce the risk severity or likelihood:	Knowledge in use of hand tools. Use of gloves where required, to reduce contact with plant sap, stings or abrasions when weeding or lifting. Awareness and briefing of dangers of certain tools - not reaching in holes being dug; keeping fingers away from scissor tools; care when swinging tools such as hammers or spades. Good clothing, suitable to the weather. Tools kept neat and not lying around to be trodden on or tripped over.

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	<p>Hi Visibility jackets to be worn when working near to the pavement or highway.</p> <p>Water containers to be filled and carried in line with the safe zones for Manual Handling (at knuckle height for a woman with arms kept close to the sides is 13kg which equates to 2.86 gallons of water. At knuckle height for a man with arms kept close to the sides is 20kg which equates to 4.4 gallons of water).</p>
Judgement:	<p>Overall, planting and growing plants, shrubs and trees is a satisfying activity that engages people with nature.</p> <p>The risks, during a well managed session, are usually of low consequence, and the few higher consequence hazards can be managed through good practice.</p>