



Brean Parish Council

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BEACH MANAGEMENT POLICY

(Rural beach status)

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Councils beach management policy is to provide a valuable resource for the health, enjoyment and well being of residents and visitors.

PUBLIC ACCESS

It is The Councils intention to allow and encourage free, unhindered pedestrian public access to the beach. Vehicular access is permitted through the designated entrance and may be chargeable at the discretion of The Council. The Council will encourage local landowners and other appropriate organisations to keep footpaths and bridleways maintained and accessible.

BEACH SAFETY

The Council will actively encourage safe use of the beach and provide safety information and signage where practical. **Refer to Beach Safety Leaflet.**

RISK ASSESSMENT

The Council will conduct a risk assessment suitable for rural beach use. The assessment will be updated as necessary by person or persons deemed suitable and qualified by The Council. The assessment will be made available to the beach wardens and members of the public via our website www.brean.org

WARDENING

The Council will endeavour to provide a warden service on the beach to ensure the safe management of the area and uphold The District Council byelaws. It is The Councils intention to warden while the beach gates are open in the main Summer months and at weekends only in the Winter months.

Refer to Wardens Training Record and Day Procedure.

CLEANING

The Council will actively encourage a clean and presentable beach for public use. The wardening service will provide litter clearance where practical and suitable community and volunteer groups supported.

DEBRIS REMOVAL

It is The Councils policy not to allow the removal of any natural materials from the foreshore area. When possible seaweed collected from beach cleaning is to be placed in eroded sand dune areas and wind blown sand from footpaths and neighbouring properties should be placed back on the beach. Pebbles and rocks should not be removed under any circumstances but driftwood may be taken by the general public. Chainsaws may only be used well away from other beach users.

COMMERCIAL TRADING

The Council will allow a limited number of trading concessions on the beach to provide a service to beach users. Only concessions approved by The Council will be allowed to trade and only in specific locations agreed by The Council.

SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

The Council encourage activities such as ball games, horse riding, kite flying etc. More specialised activities must be approved by The Council and carried out in the confines of a local club i.e.. Sand yachting and Kite Buggies. All activities must adhere to District Council byelaws.

N.B. Water based activities are normally beyond the control of The Council and covered by maritime law, it may however be possible to regulate some activities by restricting beach access.

TOURISM

The Council will continue to support the district and county councils in the promotion and marketing of beaches in Somerset.

DOGS AND PETS

The Council will allow pets on all areas of the beach for a full 12 months of the year. The wardens to work and liaise with the district council dog warden service to ensure that any fouling is removed and pets deemed to be a danger to the public removed from the beach area.

LINE MANAGEMENT

Front line management to be carried out by beach wardens when on duty. They in turn to be directed and trained by The Council beach manager. All major decisions and changes in policy refer back to full Council. N.B. In Some circumstances the beach manager may deputise in his absence.

Terms: 'The Council' refers to Brean Parish Council.

'Full Council' refers to all collective members of Brean Parish Council or appropriate quorum.

'District Council' refers to Sedgemoor District Council.

'County Council' refers to Somerset County Council.

All of the above is a statement of intent by Brean Parish Council. All of these intentions and activities are governed by financial constraints and may not be practical from time to time. Any changes to this policy may only be carried out by full Council.