

Wood Green junior parkrun (Witney)

Witney Town Council update – March 2021

Venue – Wood Green School, Witney

We have identified a 2-lap course in the grounds of Wood Green School and have received written permission from the school. Terms & Conditions are also ready to be signed and returned as soon as we have an agreed start date for the event.

Event Name

parkrun HQ has a detailed naming convention (defined since the launch of Witney parkrun in 2018) to help parkrunners easily identify their event's location. Our event will therefore be named Wood Green junior parkrun.

Core Team

The Wood Green junior parkrun Core Team will be led by two Event Directors: John Gwatkin and Tamsyn Wymer. John and Tamsyn will be supported by Punam Owens in her voluntary role as parkrun Event Ambassador. The Core Team also consists of five other members who will act as each Sunday's Run Director on a rota basis. All Core Team members have completed their DBS certification. John and Tamsyn will also complete an NSPCC Child Safeguarding online course before the event starts.

Funding

In addition to the £3,120 kindly awarded as a grant by Witney Town Council to facilitate the start-up of a junior parkrun event in Witney, the remaining £880 has now also been received from the Bartlett Taylor Charitable Trust. All start-up funding has therefore been secured.

Resumption of junior parkrun events

All parkrun events have been suspended in the UK since 21st March 2020 in light of Coronavirus restrictions. On Friday 26th February – following publication of the Government roadmap – parkrun UK announced its intention for junior events to return for 4-10 year olds on 11th April 2021 in accordance with its DCMS-approved Covid-19 Framework. Assuming there are no delays in the roadmap's roll-out, the intention is for 5km (Saturday) parkruns to return from 5th June, when 11-14 year olds will also be able to return junior parkrun events.

Wood Green junior parkrun – next steps

- 1) Mentoring: Prior to launch, we still need to arrange two official mentoring sessions for our volunteer teams at an existing junior parkrun. Upon their relaunch, we expect existing teams may want a week or two to re-find their feet so we hope to schedule these mentoring sessions in late April/early May. We will shortly begin discussions with Harcourt Hill junior parkrun to schedule these in.
- 2) Week 0: We will hold a test event for a limited number of invited participants the week before Wood Green junior parkrun's official launch. We expect this might take place in mid-May.
- 3) Launch: Our launch date will be agreed with parkrun HQ at the earliest opportunity. Given the news of the planned relaunch, we hope Wood Green junior parkrun might be able to launch towards the end of May 2021.

All dates are subject to confirmation and are based on the assumption there are no set-backs with the roll-out of the Government roadmap.