
From:**Sent:** 13 May 2021 20:52**To:** [Willington PC Clerk](#)**Subject:** Re: Little Library for Children's Books

Hi Deb,

Thank you very much for your efforts but how disappointing!

My thoughts would be:

1. Can the Parish Council own the Little Library and therefore add to current insurance?
2. I assume it is the Parish Council's insurance company who requires the risk assessment? So would only need if actually insuring? I am not sure the Covid risk or road risk would be any different to e.g. sitting on the bench on The Green, or stopping to look at the flowers or notice board - do these have risk assessments? Covid is airborne and the risk from surfaces is low. Especially if well ventilated as this would be as it is outside.
3. The reason for suggesting The Green as the site was precisely as would be visible and not close to the road. However is there another Parish owned site which would be suitable?
4. The only other option I can think of is to ask a local business if they could accommodate it.

The Little Library could be a great community project which would really add to village life and encourage the children who live here to read. Reading is so important for children's future success. Children who read do well regardless of their social background. The Little Library is currently sitting in my house waiting for the sign to be painted. It is essentially a waterproof box for books. It is difficult to understand that placing it at a safe, accessible point in the village for children to use can be this difficult. Is this a situation where unnecessary and excessive bureaucracy is preventing something that is simple and should be ignored?

Best wishes,

On 12 May 2021, at 21:03, Willington PC Clerk <Clerk@willingtonPC.org.uk> wrote:

Hi

I have had a response from our insurance company who are requesting that you as the owners of this library have your own insurance in place to cover the service and activity of the library. However I am not sure that this will be acceptable to Network Rail.

They also require a risk assessment and need to ensure that all government guidance is being followed in relation to COVID-19. I believe that this will also need to show any risks related to its proximity to the road etc.

We will also need a written agreement with Network Rail to state that we are responsible for the land that this is on.

I am so sorry that this is proving so complicated. I will probably need to put this back to Council to get their view as it is going on for so long and isn't straightforward.

I have made a few enquiries with other Parishes and it appear that quite a lot are putting them on private land due to the problems that we are experiencing.

Please let me know your thoughts. The Parish Council were fully supportive of your offer, and I am sure did not expect to experience the problems of placing it on this area.

I am really sorry for the inconvenience that this has caused.

I will await your reply.

Regards

Deb

Debra Townsend
Locum Parish Clerk
Willington Parish Council

www.willingtonpc.org.uk

Good Morning Deb,

Thank you for contacting me.

Will the resident who owns the library have their own insurance in place to cover their services and activities of the library?

If this is the case, you will just be responsible for the land the library is on but there will need to be an agreement in place between you and the land owner to state you are responsible for this.

We then ask you to ensure that you have a risk assessment in place and are following government guidelines in regards to COVID-19.

Kind regards,

Lucy Tallent

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