

Email Received from Resident:

Good afternoon,

In view of the latest government revised restrictions, I should respectfully request that the council give consideration to installing one or more outdoor table tennis tables in the parks of Saltash. In such difficult times, these would provide entertainment and safe social interaction for local residents of all age groups, thus benefiting their physical and psychological well-being.

Yesterday, I had the pleasure of speaking with Councillor Julia Peggs whilst in Longstone Park and I explained to her the below:

I am a resident of Saltash (east ward) and my wife and I are committee members of the Saltash U3A. I am also the leader of our U3A Table Tennis group, who until the Covid 19 restrictions, would normally meet fortnightly at the Wesley Methodist Church hall on Glebe Avenue. (They also have their own separate Table Tennis group)

Yesterday, I had organised an outdoor event for our U3A group in Longstone Park, this being located near to the town centre, our usual venue and walking/public transport being taken into consideration. I had produced and documented a risk assessment that covered our meeting, which was attended by 15 of the group's 30 members. Government guidelines were strictly adhered to and hand sanitising dispensers and wipes were also readily available. Equipment was very limited unfortunately, consisting of my own 2/3 size folding table tennis table and an even smaller make-shift table that I had made from wooden boards. However, the benefit for members and friends to socialise in a safe outdoor activity and environment was immediately apparent. Some had actually not seen each other since March.

With the latest government announcement that meetings will now again be restricted to 6 people, both for indoors and outdoors, it appears that many normal group activities like ours will still be some time in resuming normally.

This has led me to propose that as Table Tennis is an ideal sport and leisure activity that can be played and enjoyed by virtually all age groups and those with restricted mobility, the installation of such a facility or facilities in our parks would I suggest, greatly assist in both the physical and emotional well-being of our residents.

I ask that this proposal be afforded favourable consideration.