

This document is an abstract of the Upton Village Hall Health & Safety Policy and Arrangements for its Implementation and is aimed specifically at the regular User Group or casual booking organiser.

Policy

- The Board of Management seek to provide a facility where there is a healthy and safe environment for all its users, an environment where all users feel they have a "duty of care" towards other users and all statutory requirements for public health and safety are met.
- The User Representative or booking organiser, is responsible for ensuring the activities that will be taking place do not pose an unacceptable risk to the people they represent, also for ensuring these activities will not jeopardise the health and safety of others or the environment that the Board is seeking to provide.
- The Board works to ensure the split of responsibilities between itself and a User are clear and wants to be informed of any possible grey area that may arise.
- The Board recognises that Users play a key role in maintaining a safe and healthy facility. They require Users to recognise and cooperate with the Arrangements outlined below for implementing the H&S Policy and to operate in a way that meets the H&S standards established by the Board.

Arrangements for Implementing the Policy

1. The User/Booking Organiser

The representative of a User or the booking organiser, being the nominated responsible person, is required to sign an acknowledgement of their responsibility to implement the H&S Policy, as part of their booking contract. Regular Users will be reminded of this responsibility every three years and a written acknowledgement sought from them. For activities involving children (other than a private party), the representative will be required to show their DBS disclosure certificate. Any delegation by the representative to others is then their responsibility. Any User providing a facility aimed at potentially vulnerable adults must be a representative of an organisation recognised as supporting such adults. This requirement is one of the Terms and Conditions of Hire which a User has to sign when booking the Hall.

2. H&S Officer

The Hall H&S Officer is the key link with the User in H&S related matters.

3. Ensuring Safe Escape in the Event of a Fire

- a) Users should acquaint themselves with all normal and emergency exits and must at all times keep these exits clear
- b) When being used for public entertainment with less than 100 people present, there shall be a minimum of two persons on duty, both over 18 years old. If more than 100 people are present, the number on duty must be increased to three. These supervisory numbers should be regarded as a minimum if the majority present are less than 16 years old or when many people with disabilities are expected to attend
- c) For any major event involving numbers over 100, the organisers must check beforehand that all exits are unobstructed, doors are unlocked and are functional as intended
- d) In the event of a fire the first actions should be to shout "Fire!" (there being no fire alarm), evacuate the building (muster point is the grassy area across the road) and call the Fire Service using their mobile phone (999). If possible all doors and windows should be closed to reduce fire spread. Fire extinguishers are provided at all exits to assist in clearing a path for emergency exit.

4. Reducing the Risk of Fire

- a) Access to the boiler room is for authorised people only (committee members) not Users.
- b) Users must not introduce any flammable substances or decorations of a combustible nature without receiving permission from a Committee Member, preferably the H&S Officer.
- c) Users need to reduce the accumulation of combustible material and to properly use the storage provided
- d) Ignition sources, naked flames, candles, heating appliances or sources of heat are not allowed without receiving special permission from a Committee Member, preferably the H&S Officer
- e) Users need to keep hot display or stage lighting away from flammable materials
- f) All doors and windows must be closed and secured when leaving the Hall and any lighting and electrical equipment properly switched off (except for those normally left on such as the emergency exit signs).

5. Accidents, Incidents and Emergencies

- a) Users must report all accidents, incidents and near-misses on the proper Report Form and immediately inform a member of the Committee. A report is needed of any accident involving personal injury no matter how small, any failure of equipment belonging to the Hall or any near-miss (where under slightly different circumstances personal injury or equipment failure may well have occurred). A stock of Report Forms is kept in the magazine rack in the bar area and inside the First Aid box. The Form also covers the procedure to be followed. On receipt of the Form, the H&S Officer will ensure any useful learning or improvement actions are identified.
- b) Users are encouraged to make an entry in the "Log It To Fix It" diary if they believe action is needed to reduce the risk of an accident in the future. This diary is kept in the magazine rack in the bar area

- c) Although a First Aid Box is provided by the Committee for general use (located in the bar area), Users are recommended to consider their own particular activities and also provide their own First Aid facilities.

6. Risk Assessment

Hall Management have a Risk Assessment system in place for them to identify whether anything additional is needed bearing in mind the controls that already exist. User Groups are encouraged to carry out their own Risk Assessments, particularly the Drama Group due to the wide range of significant hazards they can face.

7. The Use of the Kitchen

- a) Any hirer intending to provide catering beyond cold or hot drinks and cold proprietary packaged biscuits/cakes, are advised to contact the County Council Food Safety Team for their advice before proceeding.
- b) The cooker and fridge are normally kept switched off and locked. Arrangements for their operation are made via the caretaker.
- c) Care must be taken when preparing and using boiling water and when handling hot utensils or appliances. The oven/hob should be supervised at all times when in use. It remains hot well after being turned off.
- d) Perishable foods must not be left in storage cupboards
- e) Children under the age of 11 are not allowed unsupervised in the kitchen
- f) Users must remove all food from the kitchen at the end of their booking. Food must not be left in the outside rubbish bins unless they are securely bagged. Excessive rubbish should be removed by the hirer.
- g) A hand wash facility is provided by the kitchen door. The kitchen and utensils should be left in a clean and hygienic state so as to be usable by the next booking. Cleaning facilities are provided (and generally are stored in the broom cupboard off the corridor next to the kitchen.) The hirer will be responsible for any additional cleaning or waste disposal expenses incurred. If the kitchen has been left in a unhygienic state by a previous booking, it should be reported to the caretaker.

9. Equipment and Appliances

- a) Any user noting any possible defect with the Hall's electrical or gas facilities should report it immediately to the caretaker or member of the Board and where appropriate cease its use.
- b) Safety equipment and other hall equipment must not be tampered with. If any faults are observed they must be reported and recorded in the Log It 2 Fix It diary stored in the magazine rack in the bar area. If important or if safety equipment is involved, then they must be reported immediately to the caretaker or to a member of the Board.
- c) Users are responsible for the safety and safe operation of all equipment they bring into the Hall. Annual PAT testing is recommended for electrical equipment.
- d) Trailing cables must be minimised so as not to cause a tripping hazard. Lengths of floor cable covers are available for use. They are kept on the wall shelf between the radiators on the back wall and must be returned there after use.
- e) No electrical equipment is to be stored in the Hall as other users could mistake it for being available for their own use.
- f) In the event of a power failure an emergency lighting supply is automatically triggered to illuminate exit routes. The illuminated exit signs are wired to remain permanently on.

10. Safe Behaviour

Children are to be supervised at all times. The Hall has features such as the kitchen, the stage and storage cupboards, which pose hazards in the event of careless behaviour.

11. Storage

- a) Care must be taken moving furniture in and out of the furniture store room. Special trollies are provided to make handling easier. Care must be taken to avoid stacking more than 8 chairs high during movement and storage.
- b) Most Regular Users are allocated their own storage cupboard. These must be kept tidy and must not be used for storing hazardous or combustible materials.
- c) Certain rooms/cupboards are generally locked or are designated as being for authorised access only and must not be tampered with.

12. Road Safety

A one-way system operates with the car park entry and exit. This must be respected. Drivers must take care at all times and be aware of pedestrians. They should take particular care on making their exit as this is directly onto a main road. Pedestrians must use the areas marked off for their use wherever possible.