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| **Title: Branches and Local Groups** | |
| **Introduction**  Branches and Local Groups are crucial in supporting the vision and development plans of Shropshire Wildlife Trust.  A number of Risk Assessments have been carried out across a range of day to day situations to ensure where reasonably possible, the health and safety of staff, volunteers, trustees, general public participating in our activities and visitors has been considered fully for potential hazards, their risk levels and likelihood of occurrence  For Branch, Local Group and other volunteer activities, C-19 risk assessments must be considered alongside your groups’ usual activity and/or dynamic risk assessments.  This COP for Branches and Local Groups helps provide additional information and guidance for those who require it, however individuals should also take note of up to date guidance released by the UK Government and/NHS England:  [www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19)  [www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-safe-outside-your-home/staying-safe-outside-your-home](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-safe-outside-your-home/staying-safe-outside-your-home)  [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/) | |
| Normal Branch and Local Group activities include (but are not limited to):  • Walks  • Talks  • Work parties  • Surveys  • Feed the Birds  • AGMs  At the current time (12.8.20) Government outlines that in England:   * It is against the law to gather in groups of more than 30 people in private homes (including gardens and other outdoor spaces). * Businesses following COVID-19 Secure guidelines can host groups of more than 30 people indoors. * For events in public outdoor spaces that are organised by businesses, charitable or political organisations, and public bodies, businesses can host more than 30 people provided they take reasonable steps to mitigate the risk of transmission, in line with COVID-19 Secure guidance and including completion of a risk assessment. * Any other gathering in an outdoor space must not be any larger than 30 people * Generally, guidance remains that people should only be socialising indoors in groups of up to two households (including your support bubble) or up to six people from different households when outdoors.   To help control the virus and to protect yourself and others, the Government promotes that when you leave home you must:   1. Keep two metres away from people outside your household or support bubble as a precaution, or one metre when you can mitigate the risk by taking other precautions in their list, 2. Avoid being face-to-face with people if they are outside your household or support bubble, 3. Keep your hands and face as clean as possible, 4. Keep indoor places well ventilated, 5. Avoid crowded spaces, 6. Work from home if you can, 7. If you have to travel, think about how and when you travel, 8. In line with government guidance be aware of the indoor locations requiring face coverings, 9. Avoid shouting or singing close to people outside your household or support bubble, 10. Reduce the number of people you spend time with in a work [or voluntary] setting, 11. Wash clothes regularly, 12. When at work or in business or public premises, follow their advice to keep you and others safe,   **SWT will:**  Provide up to date guidance where it can but official guidance should also be sought by individual groups.   * Make all C-19 operating procedures, policy and risk assessments (COPPRAs) available via our web pages for reference (planned for September 2020). * For talks and AGMs through the Branch Reps/Volunteer Coordinator (or their designate), work with Branches and/or Local Groups to develop options through online video and live streaming alternatives. * Through the Feed the Birds Coordinator and / or designated staff provide guidance on Covid-secure practices. * For surveys, through the Conservation Team provide guidance on Covid-secure practices.   As the science and guidance around the Covid-19 crisis develops, each COPPRA will be reviewed by the Covid-19 Compliance working group (WG) at least quarterly and version controlled as required. Interim reviews will be carried out should advice change in the meantime.  Should any Branch or Local Group have questions, please contact your designated Shropshire Wildlife Trust representative or the Volunteer Coordinator.  **Risk assessments have been carried out for:**   1. Volunteers 2. SWT Offices 3. SWT Vehicles 4. First Aid administration 5. People working at home   **C-19 operating procedures provide additional information covering:**   1. Risk assessments 2. Improved hygiene 3. Social distancing 4. Self-isolating 5. Wellness at work 6. C-19 outbreaks/local lockdowns/quarantine 7. Branches & Local Groups | |
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