

Little Waltham Parish Council

Re-opening of Play Equipment

Risk Assessment

Covid 19 is a new illness that can affect your lungs and airways and is caused by a virus called Coronavirus. The symptoms can be mild Moderate, severe or fatal. The Government recently announced that Play Parks could be re-opened on 4 July 2020 and subsequently produced guidance offering “practical advice on how these can be reopened and managed effectively to enable their use while minimising the transmission risk of COVID-19”. The guidance is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms>

There is a mandatory requirement to “carry out an appropriate COVID-19 risk assessment”. “Failure to complete a risk assessment which takes account of COVID-19, or completing a risk assessment but failing to put in place sufficient measures to manage the risk of COVID-19, could constitute a breach of health and safety law”. On that basis, this Risk Assessment assesses with reference to the guidance whether or not practical arrangements can be put in place in the context of the Play areas and facilities which are managed by Little Waltham Parish Council being the children’s play area and tennis court to enable such facilities to re-open

What are the hazards	Who might be harmed	Key Principle and guidance	Control measures suggested in guidance	Assessment and actions	Evaluation of control measures upon risk
Risk of injury in the case of faulty equipment	Children who use the play equipment	General Maintenance Issues following Lockdown : to make sure that equipment is safe for use upon re-opening of play area	Ensure equipment is safe to use and that risks from damaged or defective equipment are addressed before opening.	The annual safety inspection for the play area was carried out on 12 th May 2020 The Clerk who has attended the RPII course will be able to carry out a visual inspection prior to opening. Weekly inspections will be carried out thereafter.	Measure will reduce risk from medium to Low.

<p>Spread of Covid 19</p>	<p>Employees Children Vulnerable groups particularly the elderly and those with underlying health conditions Anyone else who comes into contact with the play equipment</p>	<p>Social Distancing : Social distancing aims to reduce social interaction between people to minimise the opportunity for transmission of COVID-19.</p>	<p>Put in place measures to support social distancing – 2m or 1m plus risk mitigations. Examples given include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit number of users at any one time • Booking system • Advisory signage • Create waiting areas with barriers • One way system 	<p>It is noted that the play area is in a rural village location with low footfall.</p> <p>It is not considered reasonably practical or required to have any system of booking or stewards in view of the resources of the Parish Council</p> <p>One swing from each swing bay will be removed</p> <p>It is considered that signage is imperative to advise on limit of users of one family unit per piece of apparatus and vital to make sure the signage is checked regularly</p> <p>Councillors will monitor the play area on an ad hoc basis to assess the impact of such measures</p>	<p>It is considered that such measures will reduce the risk from high to low</p>
<p>Spread of Covid 19</p>	<p>Employees Children Vulnerable groups</p>	<p>Cleaning and Hygiene : Scientific advice suggests that the virus can survive for up to several</p>	<p>Clean high traffic touch points frequently. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Play Equipment • Seating Areas • Refuse Bins 	<p>It is not considered reasonably practical to provide sanitisers as there is no storage and it will be likely to be stolen or</p>	<p>It is considered such measures will reduce risk from medium to low</p>

	<p>particularly the elderly and those with underlying health conditions</p> <p>Anyone else who comes into contact with the play equipment</p>	<p>days on some hard surfaces, particularly when indoors. These risks are reduced when outdoors, where surfaces may be subject to UV light and/or rain. The Government guidance applies to outdoor playgrounds and outdoor gyms but the virus could survive long enough on frequently used/touched outdoor surfaces to facilitate transmission.</p>	<p>In addition, use signage to encourage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users to clean equipment before and after use • Use of hand sanitiser and frequent hand washing <p>Where practicable, provide hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities at entry and exit points.</p>	<p>misused especially as they contain alcohol</p> <p>It is noted that this is a small rural play area with limited footfall in a village setting.</p> <p>It is considered that by notifying users that the equipment is not being cleaned and to advise them to clear prior to use with wipes and to use sanitiser will be sufficient in this setting</p>	
Spread of Covid 19	<p>Employees</p> <p>Children</p> <p>Vulnerable groups particularly the elderly and those with</p>	Face Coverings	<p>If possible, a face covering should be worn in enclosed public spaces where social distancing isn't possible and where the public may come into contact with people they do not normally meet. (Face coverings should not be used by children under the age of 3 or those who</p>	No enclosed spaces	No actions required

	<p>underlying health conditions</p> <p>Anyone else who comes into contact with the play equipment</p>		<p>may find it difficult to manage them correctly).</p>		
<p>Spread of Covid 19</p>	<p>Employees</p> <p>Children</p> <p>Vulnerable groups particularly the elderly and those with underlying health conditions</p> <p>Anyone else who comes into contact with the play equipment</p>	<p>Additional Measures and Communicating with Parents</p>	<p>Promote responsible behaviour by children, parents, carers and guardians. For example, owners and operators should consider putting up signs to make clear to users, parents, guardians and carers that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consumption of food or drink on play equipment or in the playground area is banned • parents, guardians or carers should dispose of all litter including any used protective wear such as face coverings or gloves properly in litter bins, taking it home where a bin is not provided. 	<p>It is considered that the messages can be conveyed with signage</p> <p>Signage will be monitored and for the longer term metal signage will be ordered.</p> <p>Parish Council social media channels will also be used to convey messages</p>	<p>The Parish Council has a number of communication sources to spread the message</p> <p>Risk assessed low</p>
<p>Spread of Covid 19</p>	<p>Children with additional needs</p>	<p>Considering Children with Additional Needs</p>	<p>Take into account the requirements of children with additional needs.</p>	<p>Signage will include appropriate messaging for parents and carers</p>	<p>Such measures will reduce risk to low</p>

Spread of Covid 19	Employees Councillors Volunteers	Keeping Staff Safe	Consider the risks staff may be exposed to and how these can be mitigated. Staff roles may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cleaning playground equipment/surrounding areas • inspecting play equipment • managing queues of those waiting to use equipment • stewarding equipment to ensure users comply with rules made by the owner/operator 	Councillors, staff and volunteers to wear gloves when accessing the area	Such measures will reduce risks to low
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Conclusions: To enable actions to be taken and in view of the fact the Clerk is not available the week commencing 13th July 2020 the aim will be to carry out inspections, erect signage (initially laminated) post on communication channels and remove swings in time for an planned opening of 24th July 2020

Assessment Date 7th July 2020

Review Date 28th July 2020