

Weston with Gayton Parish Council

Re-opening of Play Equipment

Risk Assessment

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>

The guidance includes a requirement to “carry out an appropriate COVID-19 risk assessment”. It is made very clear that “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 takes each of the Key Principles as set out in the guidance and assesses whether or not practical arrangements can be put in place to re-open the Play Area and Skate Park in Weston.

Key Principle	Government Guidance	Assessment	Conclusion
General Maintenance Issues following Lockdown	Ensure equipment is safe to use and that risks from damaged or defective equipment are addressed before opening.	Play Area inspections to be completed by Grounds Maintenance contractor prior to opening on the 4 th July and any issues brought to the attention of the Clerk. Formal Play Area Inspection to be completed by the Play Inspection Company as close to the 4 th July opening date as possible.	Equipment is safe to use and any issues mitigated prior to opening. Low Risk
Social Distancing	Put in place measures to support social distancing – 2m or 1m plus risk mitigations. Examples given include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limit number of users at any one time• Booking system• Advisory signage• Create waiting areas with barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Posters on display reminding people of the need to socially distance themselves from others.• One swing in each bay to be tied back to support social distancing when in use.• Posters reminding people that some items of equipment e.g the roundabout must be used by one child or children from the same	All reasonable steps have been taken prior to opening. Advice on safe usage communicated via posters and on the Website and Facebook. Equipment is well spaced and should ease compliance with social distancing requirements with parental supervision.

		<p>household/bubble as they are not large enough to use whilst socially distanced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is not practical to introduce a booking system for each item of play equipment as there is not the staff or resourcing available to do so. • Waiting areas and barriers are not practical as they cannot be policed and create additional high touch zones. Came & Co. Insurance state You have a responsibility to remove any temporary barriers that may have been put up during lockdown which may also be hazardous. 	Low risk
Cleaning and Hygiene	<p>Clean high traffic touch points frequently. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Play Equipment • Seating Areas • Refuse Bins <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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning frequently would be resource intensive and not practical within current staffing levels and budget. • Items may become infected seconds after cleaning when the first child touches the equipment • Posters to be displayed encouraging users to sanitise hands before and after using equipment to reduce the risk of transfer. • The provision of hand washing facilities is not practical due to location and lack of water supply. • The provision of hand sanitiser is not practical due to the unmanned nature of the site. Users are instead encouraged to bring their own hand sanitiser and use regularly. 	<p>Ensure the public are aware the equipment is not cleaned or sanitised via posters, the website and Facebook. Request users take reasonable steps to protect themselves by using sanitiser both before and after using the equipment and wash their hands when they return home.</p> <p>Medium risk – dependent on users complying with the request to use sanitiser before and after use of each item of equipment.</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</p>	<p>The Play Area and Skate Park are both recreational areas for children and are both open air. As such face coverings are not</p>	<p>The wearing of facemasks cannot be monitored or policed and therefore will not be made a requirement of use. Social distancing measures will</p>

	with people they do not normally meet. (Face coverings should not be used by children under the age of 3 or those who may find it difficult to manage them correctly).	required as long as social distancing measures are adhered to.	be encouraged via posters, Facebook and the website. Low Risk
Additional Measures and Communicating with Parents	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: <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. 	Erection of temporary signs is possible. Erection of permanent signage may be possible although there is no budget allocation for signage. This could be reviewed if the lockdown restriction measures and guidance are deemed to be required in the longer term. Posters to state that the consumption of food or drink is prohibited and that all litter must be taken home and disposed of.	Temporary signs to be printed and displayed around the play equipment and skate park as well as displayed on the website and shared on Facebook. Permanent signage to be considered in the next few months if measures are likely to remain in place in the longer term. Low Risk
Considering Children with Additional Needs	Take into account the requirements of children with additional needs.	Children with additional needs are expected to be supervised by a responsible adult. No changes to the play area or skate park are required in terms of equipment accessibility.	Ensure the poster is available on the website in plain text. The responsible adult is expected to read and adhere to the guidance. There is no guidance issued that should result in a lack of accessibility. Low Risk
Keeping Staff Safe	Consider the risks staff may be exposed to and how these can be mitigated. Staff roles may include:	The Parish Council employs one member of staff working 11 hours a week. That member of staff is also shielding until the 1 st August.	Staff will not be monitoring or cleaning the equipment.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cleaning playground equipment/surrounding areas • managing queues of those waiting to use equipment • stewarding equipment to ensure users comply with rules made by the owner/operator 	<p>Employment of additional staff to clean and manage the use of the Play Area is not practical within existing resources.</p> <p>Contractors undertaking regular playground safety inspections to take protective measures in line with government guidance.</p>	<p>Grounds Maintenance Contractor to take appropriate safety precautions to ensure social distancing and sanitation when carrying out routine safety inspections of equipment.</p> <p>Low Risk</p>
--	---	---	--

Conclusions

To open the Play Area and Skate Park with temporary signage reminding users of safe use and hygiene requirements. Neither the Play Area or the Skate Park are gated and so it will not be possible to prevent use. Following the Government Announcement that parks and play areas can re-open on the 4th July, it is highly likely people will begin to use the facilities regardless of formal opening. The Parish Council cannot physically prevent this and any police presence will be limited. If open with new signage it is hoped people will use the equipment responsibly and the outcome will be less risk than leaving the play area and skate park closed.

June 2020