

COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

RE-OPENING OF PLAYGROUND - RISK ASSESSMENT

On June 23rd 2020 HM Government (via the Ministry for Housing, Community and Local Government) announced that Children’s Playgrounds could be re-opened on July 4th 2020 and subsequently, on June 26th 2020 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>

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 in the context of the Children’s Playground at the Parish Hall.

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.	A Visual inspection, using existing weekly checklist to be undertaken prior to playground. Any identified issues to be resolved before re-opening.	Visual inspection was conducted by Cllr Graham Chillcott in my presence on July 1st 2020. No issues of concern identified.
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 	The equipment is well spaced We could use Advisory signage to suggest use limit to number of uses. Booking system not practical.	Subject to appropriate signage, suggesting limited number of users, there is little more that the Parish Council could do.
Cleaning and Hygiene	Clean high traffic touch points frequently. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Play Equipment • Seating Areas • Refuse Bins In addition, use signage to encourage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users to clean equipment before and after use • Use of hand sanitiser and frequent hand washing Where practicable, provide hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities at entry and exit points.	This is not practically possible – we do not have the staff or funding available. Advisory signage can be used to cover most of these points. Providing on site hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities is not an option due to the location, the lack of staff to monitor the facilities and the possible risk of removal and/or misuse.	It is accepted that there is a risk of children using the play equipment passing the virus, however this is no greater than them being at school or playing with other children generally.

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 may find it difficult to manage them correctly).</p>	Impossible to implement or monitor	This is for the individual to decide not the Parish Council
Additional Measures and Communicating with Parents	<p>Promote responsible behaviour by children, parents, carers and guardians.</p> <p>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. 	The provision of signage and messages on Social Media; the Parish Council website; and generally by word of mouth to explain the suggested guidelines for using the playground, should provide sufficient communication with potential users.	<p>The steps proposed would mitigate the risks significantly.</p> <p>Weekly checks that the signage remains in place will be added to the checklist for the weekly visual inspections that are undertaken by the council.</p>
Considering Children with Additional Needs	Take into account the requirements of children with additional needs.	These are issues specific to individual children which can only be a assessment by that child's carers/parents or guardians.	The Parish Council are not providers of specialist services for children with additional needs and any risk assessment must be undertaken by carers.
Keeping Staff Safe	<p>Consider the risks staff may be exposed to and how these can be mitigated.</p> <p>Staff roles may include:</p> <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 	Not applicable, the council has not staff employed to undertake these roles	

Conclusions

The Children's Playground at the Parish Hall provides a much needed area for children to exercise in a safe environment. The advice from HM Government; the National Association of Local Councils; the Hampshire Association of Local Councils; and the Society of Local Council Clerks, has all been studied at length. Whilst it must be acknowledged that there is some risk of the transmission of COVID-19, it is the view of the Parish Clerk that provided the Parish Council takes all the steps outlined above, the play area can safely re-open on July 6th 2020.

Copies of all signage to be used at the playground is attached to this risk assessment, a full copy of which will be placed on our website (on the Policies, Procedures and Governance page within the "Transparency" section).

Photographs of the signage in place will be taken prior to re- opening the playground.

July 6th 2020



COPYTHORNE PARISH PLAYGROUND - COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR USE

Scientific advice suggests that the COVID-19 virus can survive for up to several days on some hard surfaces. The risks are reduced when outdoors, where surfaces may be subject to UV light and/or rain. Whilst all possible practical measures have been put in place the user of this equipment does so at their own choice and risk.

- The maximum number of users at any one time should be 15.
- Only one adult supervising each family group.
- Please retain 2m distance from those not in your family group.
- Observe and comply with any user number signs on equipment.
- To enable as many children as possible to use the equipment please limit use to 15 minutes at busy times.
- Use of hand sanitiser gel or wipes is advised before and after using the equipment.
- Wash hands thoroughly when you get home.
- When using equipment do not touch face.
- Consumption of food & drink within play area is currently **NOT** permitted.
- Please use bins provided or take litter home.

David Rigby
Parish Clerk, Copythorne Parish Council
July 6th 2020

BASKET SWING

**Only one child
(*or two from the
same household*)
to use this piece
of equipment
at a time**

David Rigby
Parish Clerk
Copythorne PC
July 6th 2020



**COPYTHORNE
PARISH COUNCIL**

SEAT AND CRADLE SWINGS

**Only one swing
to be used
at a time
*(unless both
children are from
the same household)***

David Rigby
Parish Clerk
Copythorne PC
July 6th 2020



**COPYTHORNE
PARISH COUNCIL**

CAROUSEL

**Only one child
(*or two from the
same household*)
to use this piece
of equipment
at a time**

David Rigby
Parish Clerk
Copythorne PC
July 6th 2020

TRAMPOLINE

**Only one child
(*or two from the
same household*)
to use this piece
of equipment
at a time**

David Rigby
Parish Clerk
Copythorne PC
July 6th 2020