

COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 14TH 2021

ITEM NO: 11 – Playground Inspection – Operational Maintenance Inspection Report / Summary of members Visual Inspections

This report notes the Operational Maintenance Inspection carried out in August 2021. It also provides the information summary on the Visual Inspections carried out by the Parish Council Team in the last few months.

Information

The latest Annual Inspection was carried out by N W Adams Engineering Design Services (Nick Adams), on August 24th 2021 and I received his report on September 1st 2021. A copy of the report is attached.

Also included in this report is a summary of the Parish Council Visual Inspection findings over the past few months, for information and in relation to the actions which have been or are planned to be undertaken.

Operational Inspection Findings

Numbered pages 1 to 8 of the report provide a summary of specific potential issues identified as being a risk (low/medium/high) with actions suggested by Nick Adams *in italics* and planned actions in response in **bold**:-

1. Access – *Across grass to basketball area may be a seasonal problem for those with mobility difficulty* **The returned area remaining under a watching brief**
2. Access Pathway – *Soil erosion abutting the PCC edging creating a trip hazard. Make flush with topsoil and re-grass (medium risk)* **Suggested action to be undertaken by a “working party”**
3. (Wooden) Fencing – *Replace corroded/short screws with longer ones.* **Suggested action (two screws) to be undertaken by a “working party”**
4. Litter Bin – *Loose on improved concrete flag base consider securing to fence to avoid tipping (low risk)* – **Monitoring in place no action considered required at this time**
5. Basketball post & ring – Support post loose in ground – *Monitor closely for further loosening/programme to re-concrete.* **Monitoring in place via weekly visual inspections**
Bolts to rear of backboard Provide dome head/caps or cut off and file down to remove sharp edges (low risk) – **Bolts already cut off, edges to be checked by a “working party”**
6. Movement Clash - *Group seat swing installed too close to adjacent fence and mixed swing seat swing too close to the group seat – A minimum gap between each of 600mm is recommended (low/medium risk)* **Layout doesn't allow for changes to be made (Nick is aware of this)**
7. General maintenance/safety comments – *Wash off algae from the plastic panels* **Suggested action to be undertaken by a “working party”**
8. Footballs from field to playground – *Continue to monitor* – **Monitoring and recording of any instances is in place**
9. Flat Seat Swing/Cradle Seat – *Missing recess caps (4) – Replace. Untwist chains to extend their life.* **Both suggested actions to be undertaken by a “working party” (agreed with Nick that infill with bathroom silicone will be sufficient**
10. Group Seat swing – *Twisted safety chains due to flipping – Untwist to release the chairs to avoid premature link wear.* **This action was undertaken on the day of the inspection with Nick's help**
11. Safer Surfacing (wet pour) – *Note excessive crumbing of yellow surface (around carousel)* – **Reported to Creative Play on day of inspection and being examined by them on October 6th**
12. Trampoline – *Minor Litter visible beneath the rebound surface - Programme to remove, contact supplier regarding advice on access for cleansing.* **Supplier advised complete dismantling would be required (not under guarantee). “No risk issue”**

13. Multi-unit – *Loose vehicle drivers seat and steering wheel hub – Tighten* **Suggested actions to be undertaken by a “Working Party”**
Various tightening of parts are detailed in report. Replace missing handgrip bolt caps – Suggested actions to be undertaken by a “Working Party”
14. Multi-unit – *Recommend an additional feature panel board to the lowest part of the highest platform to provide additional rigidity/stabilise this part of the structure/refer to supplier* **Supplier to look at this suggestion when visiting on October 6th**
15. Multi-unit – *Potential for accident on some types of overhead bars. Medium/high risk* **This point has been raised by Nick on each inspection with an additional comment about the “strong development value in these items”. No action considered necessary.**
16. Multi-unit – *Soft spot/hollow area in front of tunnel Refer to supplier.* **Supplier is attending on October 6th to effect a repair under warranty (other cracking will be repaired under warranty at same time.**
17. Challenge Trail – *Loosened (but secure) cable link end eye bolts. Tighten.* **Suggested action to be undertaken by a working party.**

Visual Inspections Summary

Below, in no particular order, is a table of the Visual Inspection findings, some of which are also covered in the listing above.

	Issue	Comments / Referral
1	Grass abutting the path near gate worn	See 2. above
2	Backboards panels to signs on fence delaminating (one removed for repair	Following discussions with Nick, Clerk to order materials to replace.
3	Safer Surfacing – “sink hole” near tunnel & cracking elsewhere	See 16. above
3	Missing caps to swing seat screws	See 9. above
4	Rust on basket swing chains	Discussed with Nick, no concerns at present
5	Litter under trampoline	See 12. above
6	Minor delaminating of middle tread plate on Challenge Trail	Discussed with Nick, no concerns at present
7	Multi use games area – ground surface wearing again	Watching brief.
8	Basketball net post leans slightly	See 5. above

Recommendations

1. That the report and any action planning is noted
2. Continued use of Nick Adams to undertake annual inspection and operational inspection (6 months apart)
3. A Working party is established during October 2021 to undertake minor works repairs and changes, for which volunteers are sought.
4. An updating report will be provided once “working party” has undertaken suggested tasks

David Rigby

Clerk to Copythorne Parish Council

September 6th 2021