

WEEDON BEC 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 in the context of the three open access Play Areas.

Equipment/Area	Preparing for and re-opening	Social Distancing	Cleaning & Hygiene	Other Measures	Comments
Cavalry Fields play area 3 pieces of equipment plus bin and seat	1. Ensure equipment is safe to use and that risks from damage of defective equipment are addressed 2. All equipment has been checked for damage and is ready for use 3. Regular monthly checks of the equipment will continue	Area is enclosed with fencing, one gate. Limit No of users: 3 children with 1 family member only for each child	Recommended hygiene, including hand sanitisers, to be supplied and carried by individuals using the equipment	Signage: 1. Restriction of use 2. Recommend cleaning by users 3. Social distancing 4. Regular bin emptying	
Croft Way playing field 10+ items of play equipment Plus bin, seats, picnic benches and fencing	1. Ensure equipment is safe to use and that risks from damage of defective equipment are addressed 2. All equipment has been checked for damage and is ready for use 3. Regular monthly checks of the equipment will continue	Area is enclosed with fencing.	Recommended hygiene, including hand sanitisers, to be supplied and carried by individuals using the equipment	Signage: 1. Restriction of use 2. Recommend cleaning by users 3. Social distancing 4. Regular bin emptying	
Jubilee Field Large open space 6 items of equipment BMX trail	1. Ensure equipment is safe to use and that risks from damage of defective equipment are addressed	Area is completely open, large spaces between equipment.	Recommended hygiene, including hand sanitisers, to be supplied and carried	Signage: 1. Restriction of use 2. Recommend cleaning by users 3. Social distancing	

benches	2. All equipment has been checked for damage and is ready for use 3. Regular monthly checks of the equipment will continue		by individuals using the equipment	4. Regular bin emptying	
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. 			The provision of on-site posters, and messages on social media, the Parish Council website, the Primary school and generally by word of mouth, should provide sufficient communication with potential users	The steps proposed would mitigate the risks significantly
Considering Children with Additional Needs	Take into account the requirements of children with additional needs.			These are risks which can only be assessment by 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	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 managing queues of those waiting to use equipment stewarding equipment to ensure users comply with rules made by the owner/operator 			Not applicable No staff on site	

Conclusions

For the three play areas: The advice from National County Association, SLCC, NCALC and the Government, 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 could safely re-open.

Risk Assessments undertaken by the Clerk and conclusions to be agreed by all councillors.

30th June 2020