

Barby & Onley Parish Council ONLEY PARK PLAY AREA

Re-opening of Play Equipment following closure due to Coronavirus Pandemic

Risk Assessment

The Government recently announced that Play Areas 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 in Barby & Onley Parish.

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.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Equipment checked and minor maintenance issues noted.2. Grass strimmed and mowed3. All equipment cleaned.	Secondary matting directly under the swing to be replaced in due course.
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, the only issues may arise in relation to the slide, monkey bars and spider cone climber, where children may get too close. All equipment has been marked with tape to remind users of social distancing rules. Signage at the entrance of the park to remind people to stay alert. It is not possible to monitor usage due to lack of staff and location.	Adults and children are advised via signage to wash hands before and after using the equipment, maintain social distance, and take responsibility for their own health.

		There is only one entrance into the park.	
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>	<p>This is not practically possible as we do not have the staff or funding available.</p> <p>The Advisory signate will cover most of these points. Providing hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities is not an option due to location, the lack of staff to monitor the facilities and the possible risk of theft or not being able to replenish hand sanitiser immediately.</p>	<p>Onley Park is a small community with low numbers of children likely to use the park. Parents and children are guided by advisory signs to take responsibility for their own health, and to avoid using the equipment if feeling ill.</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 may find it difficult to manage them correctly).</p>	<p>Impossible to implement or monitor.</p>	<p>This is for the individual to decide at their preference.</p>
Additional Measures and Communicating with Parents	<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>	<p>The provision of signage and messages on social media, the Parish Council website and village newsletter should provide sufficient communication with potential users.</p>	<p>Notifications to be shared to Onley Parks facebook page.</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. 		An additional sign to be displayed saying "No eating or drinking whilst using the Play Area"
Considering Children with Additional Needs	Take into account the requirements of children with additional needs.	These are risks which can only be assessed by parents/carers.	
Keeping Staff Safe	<p>Consider the risks staff may be exposed to and how these can be mitigated. 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 	<p>N/A as there is insufficient staff or funding to provide monitoring.</p> <p>If staff need to access the Play Area to carry out routine checks the gloves to be worn and hand sanitiser used.</p>	

Conclusions

Onley Park Play area provides a much needed area for children to exercise in a safe environment. 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 Councillor Cooper and Parish Clerk that provided the Parish Council takes the steps outlined above, the play area could safely re-open.

Risk Assessments undertaken by Councillor Adrian Cooper and the Parish Clerk and conclusions agreed by all councillors.

02 July 2020