

Church Fenton Parish Council

Risk Assessment for Play parks and Skate Park – Covid19 secure

Risk Assessment is a systematic general examination of the activities of the Parish Council to enable potential risk to be identified. The Parish Council, based on the recorded assessment, will take all practical and necessary steps to reduce or eliminate the risk identified. This document has been produced to enable Church Fenton Parish Council to assess the risk inherent to its activities and satisfy itself that it has taken all reasonable steps to minimise them and particularly to ensure our facilities are Covid19 secure.

The Government recently announced that Play Parks could be re-opened from 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 two open access Play Parks in Church Fenton.

Area	Identified Risk	Level of Risk	Controls to mitigate Risk	Action Required
Compliance	Risk of non-compliance with COVID-19 related laws and/or regulation resulting in fines or prison sentences	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Review of government guidance</i> • <i>Communication with other local authority representatives, including sharing of risk assessment</i> • <i>Monitoring approach adopted by other play parks locally</i> • <i>Display risk assessment and park/playground rules</i> 	<p><i>Check UK government website for full guidance on play areas reopening</i></p> <p><i>Communicate with YLCA and share risk assessment</i></p> <p><i>Display risk assessment and playground rule on village noticeboards, Parish Council website & Facebook page</i></p>
Financial	Risk of exhaustion of precept due to additional expensed related to managing spread of COVID-19	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Establish and operate within a budget</i> • <i>Identify cost effective solutions, including sharing materials where appropriate</i> • <i>Reclaim additional expenses from schemes established to support action on COVID-19</i> 	<p><i>Agree a budget</i></p> <p><i>Investigate pricing of materials</i></p> <p><i>Reclaim expenses</i></p>
	Risk of financial loss	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Minimise risk of loss through the purchase on insurance</i> 	<p><i>Insurance Brokers, Came & Co, have been contacted to check that cover will continue if play areas open in the present climate</i></p>

	MAIN STREET PLAY AREA, LS24 9RF			
Play equipment	<p>Risk of injury</p> <p><i>Relates to children using the play areas and knock-on impact on health services</i></p>	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure equipment is safe to use and that risks from damaged or defective equipment are addressed before opening. • Regular ongoing inspections • Check ROSPA Guidance https://www.rospa.com/play-safely • HAGs Ltd can provide a “deep clean” of both sites – however inhibitive costs and as both sites have been closed since end of March, risk of cross infection highly unlikely due to materials being exposed to the elements 	HAGs Ltd conducted a full site safety inspection of playground during closure to ensure the sites are safe.
	<p>Transmission of Covid19 through social interaction</p> <p><i>Relates initially to children and parents/guardians and then potentially wider society</i></p>	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following consideration of the number of people that can safely be in each designated area whilst maintaining social distance it was agreed to limit no of people in the play area to 3 households • To avoid overcrowding, restrictions have been placed on accompanying adults to one adult per household • Establish additional rules that facilitate social distancing • Communicate rules through signage • Visible reminders to help users adhere to social distancing rules • Children must be accompanied by an adult to oversee adherence with rules • Introduce a queueing system on the path which is 2m from the gate to the play area 	<p>Spray social distancing reminders on the floor</p> <p>Order and fit signage with rules of play</p> <p>Order and fit signs that clearly state the no. of households/people entrance to specific areas e.g. play park, wooden equipment and Skate Park.</p> <p>Repetitive signage throughout and inside play areas (child friendly – “give each other space”.</p>
	<p>Transmission of Covid-19 through contact with virus on materials</p> <p><i>Relates to initially to children, parents/guardians and staff employed to maintain/weed and then potentially wider society</i></p>	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage effective sanitisation through use of hand sanitizer wipes before and after play. Outdoor hand sanitiser stations discussed and dismissed due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Not seen as an effective long-term solution. 	<p>Order and fit signage with rules of play</p> <p>Ensure signs encourage sanitisation</p> <p>Communicate rules via Parish Council Facebook page</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Concern visitors may rely on these for sanitation and they could run out or be damaged ○ Provides additional complications for cleaning, refilling and lack of staffing resources to ensure this is regularly done. <p><i>Preferred solution is to encourage visitors to supply their own sanitisation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Government guidance states survival period of virus on equipment is shortened due to exposure to UV light and rain ● Introduce new rules to minimise the spread of the virus e.g. no eating or drinking in play area ● Communicate with users through signs to encourage the cleaning of hands, clear touch points of equipment. Encourage parents to bring hand sanitiser / wipes. ● Children must be accompanied by an adult to oversee adherence with rules 	
Queuing / waiting area	<p>Risk of social unrest caused by new rules restricting use</p> <p><i>Relates directly to children and parents/guardians and indirectly to residents</i></p>	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consideration was given to the time that should be spent in the area to avoid lengthy waiting times for others – as play areas will be popular due to long lockdown period. Introduced 15-minute max play during busy periods ● Encourage social distancing outside of the play area 	<p><i>Social distancing reminders on the path</i></p> <p><i>Signage at entrance to play area to include maximum play time</i></p> <p><i>Communicate rules via Parish Council Facebook page</i></p>
Wooden play equipment on field	<p>Transmission of Covid19 through social interaction</p> <p><i>Relates initially to users of the equipment & then potentially wider society</i></p>	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Following consideration of the number of people that can safely use the equipment it was decided to limit to 3 people on the equipment at any one time, in order to maintain social distance 	<p><i>Signage on the green boards, rules and 2m signs</i></p>

Slide Mound	Transmission of Covid19 through social distancing <i>Relates initially to users of the equipment & then potentially wider society</i>	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Signage to encourage social distancing</i> 	<i>Order and fit signs encouraging social distancing inside the slide fort</i>
Bins – litter bins	Transmission of Covid19 through social interaction and/or contact with virus on materials <i>Relates initially to children, parents/guardians and staff employed to collect rubbish & then potentially wider society</i>	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Encourage litter to be taken home to avoid contaminated materials being left on site</i> • <i>Covering open top bins and mark them out of use to reduce risk of contaminated materials being blowing around site</i> • <i>Litter bins in use will be emptied regularly (monthly) by SDC</i> • <i>Level of rubbish to be monitored fortnightly</i> 	<i>Contact SDC to ensure bins are regularly emptied and cleaned Cover open top bins and mark as out of use Contact Lengthsman to request he monitors the rubbish levels fortnightly</i>
Benches -	Transmission of Covid19 through social interaction <i>Relates initially to children and parents/guardians using facility & then potentially wider society</i>	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>3x bench seats, 1x picnic bench in the play area/field and 1x bench inside the Skate Ramp</i> • <i>Limit use to 1 household per bench at any one time</i> • <i>Encourage use of hand sanitisation in the park</i> • <i>Government guidance states survival period of virus on equipment is shortened due to exposure to UV light and rain</i> 	<i>Signage on the seat encouraging social distancing</i>
Field	Transmission of Covid19 through social interaction <i>Relates initially to users of the field & then potentially wider society</i>	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Open space next to wooden play equipment, football posts – site visit discussed cordoning off the area, but felt this could lead to bunching of visitors increasing the risk rather than managing so decision to leave as an open space to allow visitors to socially distance</i> 	<i>Signage on the green boards facing the field – 2m signs and rules of the park</i>

SKATE PARK, MAIN STREET, LS24 9RF				
Skate Park	<p>Transmission of Covid19 through social interaction and/or contact with virus</p> <p><i>Relates initially to users of the skate park & then potentially wider society</i></p> <p>https://www.skateboard-england.org/covid19-update</p>	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult available guidance on appropriate measure e.g. Skateboard England • Limit number of people on the skate park at any one time to a max of 3 people in line with guidance for a small skate park • Restrict usage to only active skaters • Discourage congregating • Signage on the bench inside the ramp to limit use to one household • Encourage effective sanitation e.g. clean boards before / after skating • Clearly communicate rules of use 	<p>Skateboard England - signage on the top of each ramp railings facing the ramps</p> <p>Order and fit signs clearly stating maximum number on the skate park</p>
Skate Park	<p>Risk of injury</p> <p><i>Relates to users of skate park and knock-on impact on health services</i></p>	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usual signage in good order • Only one person on each skate run at a time 	<p>Signage at the end of each ramp, reinforcing the rules of skateboarding</p>
SANDWATH DRIVE PLAY AREA, LS24 9US				
Play equipment	<p>Risk of injury</p> <p><i>Relates to children using the play areas and knock-on impact on health services</i></p>	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure equipment is safe to use and that risks from damaged or defective equipment are addressed before opening. • Regular ongoing inspections • Check ROSPA Guidance https://www.rospea.com/play-safely • Weeds coming up between areas – needs addressing 	<p>HAGs Ltd conducted a full site inspection of playground during closure.</p> <p>Lengthsman needs to do some work on the removing the weeds</p>
	<p>Transmission of Covid19 through social interaction</p> <p><i>Relates initially to children and parents/guardians & then potentially wider society</i></p>	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following consideration of the number of people that can safely be in each designated area whilst maintaining social distance it was agreed to limit no of people in the play area to 4 households • To avoid overcrowding, restrictions have been placed on accompanying adults to one adult per household • Establish additional rules that facilitate social distancing 	<p>Spray social distancing reminders on the floor</p> <p>Order and fit social distancing signs</p> <p>Order and fit signage with rules of play</p> <p>Order and fit No of households/people signs at entrance</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Communicate rules through signage</i> • <i>Visible reminders to help users adhere to social distancing rules</i> • <i>Children must be accompanied by an adult to oversee adherence with rules</i> 	<p><i>Repetitive signage throughout and inside play areas (child friendly – “give each other space”.</i></p>
	<p><i>Transmission of Covid-19 through contact with virus on materials</i></p> <p><i>Relates initially to children, parents/guardians and staff employed to maintain/weed & then potentially wider society</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Encourage effective sanitisation through use of hand sanitizer wipes before and after play. Outdoor hand sanitiser stations discussed and dismissed due to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Not seen as an effective long-term solution.</i> ○ <i>Concern visitors may rely on these for sanitation and they could run out or be damaged</i> ○ <i>Provides additional complications for cleaning, refilling and lack of staffing resources to ensure this is regularly done.</i> <i>Preferred solution is to encourage visitors to supply their own sanitisation</i> • <i>Government guidance states survival period of virus on equipment is shortened due to exposure to UV light and rain</i> • <i>Introduce new rules to minimise the spread of the virus e.g. no eating or drinking in play area</i> • <i>Communicate with users through signs to encourage the cleaning of hands, clear touch points of equipment. Encourage parents to bring hand sanitiser / wipes.</i> • <i>Children must be accompanied by an adult to oversee adherence with rules</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Order and fit signage with rules of play</i> • <i>Ensure signs encourage sanitisation</i> • <i>Communicate rules via Parish Council Facebook page</i>

Play entrance	Transmission of Covid19 through social interaction <i>Relates initially to children and parents/guardians & then potentially wider society</i>	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queueing system on the path • Encourage 2m social distancing • IN and OUT gate – use the north gate as the entrance and the south gate at the out. 	Spray in, out and no entry signs on floor Spray social distancing reminders on the floor
	Risk of social unrest caused by new rules restricting use <i>Relates directly to children and parents/guardians and indirectly to residents</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration was given to the time that should be spent in the area to avoid lengthy waiting times for others – as play areas will be popular due to long lockdown period. Introduced 15-minute max play during busy periods 	Signs to include maximum play time
Bins – litter bins	Transmission of Covid19 through social interaction <i>Relates initially to children, parents/guardians and staff employed to collect rubbish & then potentially wider society</i>	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage litter to be taken home to avoid contaminated materials being left on site • Covering open top bins and mark them out of use to reduce risk of contaminated materials being blowing around site • Litter bins in use will be emptied regularly (monthly) by SDC • Level of rubbish to be monitored fortnightly 	Contact SDC to ensure bins are regularly emptied and cleaned Cover open top bins and mark as out of use Contact Lengthsman to request he monitors the rubbish levels fortnightly
Benches -	Transmission of Covid19 through social interaction <i>Relates initially to children and parents/guardians using facility & then potentially wider society</i>	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2x bench seats in the play area • Limit use to 1 household per bench at any one time • Encourage use of hand sanitisation in the park • Government guidance states survival period of virus on equipment is shortened due to exposure to UV light and rain 	Signage on the seat encouraging social distancing

Conclusions

The Council will review whether the playgrounds / skate park should remain open if it becomes aware of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the local area or lockdown is imposed on any nearby areas.

This Risk Assessment will be reviewed on or by 31 December 2020. In any event, all procedures here will be reviewed and are subject to published Government Guidelines and any local lockdown restrictions.

Risk Assessment undertaken by the Clerk and associated signage for the play parks. Site Visit conducted at both venues by Cllrs Chester, Charlston, Blakey, Herbert, Seguss and the Clerk and conclusions agreed by all councillors (28 June 2020).

10 July 2020

Risk assessment review

Date of Review	Reason for review	Name	Signature
31 July 2020	<p>Vandalism of signage and children (under 11) entering the play park unaccompanied by an adult (on a regular basis)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) <i>Temporary closure of the play park from 29 July to 31 July 2020 – due to vandalism (video posted on facebook) – 14 signs defaced and broken.</i>2) <i>Site visit with Councillors to revisit and review Risk Assessment – Chair (S Charlston) and Cllr R Higham, and Clerk.</i>3) <i>Additional signage created to emphasise that under 11s must be accompanied by an adult (9 new laminated colour signs placed on gated entrance and gate to play area, including rules of play, skateboard rules and Under 11s must be accompanied by an adult)</i>4) Investigation to be undertaken by Clerk to look at feasibility of some aluminium signage to provide some permanent rules of play for a Covid19 secure park.	G Ashton Clerk to the Council	