

Rowsley Parish Council

Re-opening of Play Park

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-managingplaygrounds-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 COVID19, 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 Parish Council’s play park on School Lane

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.	The annual Rospa inspection done on 26 th May 2020 raised a medium risk issue with the toddler swing. A further inspection was completed on 17.07.20, and no other issues were found. Equipment cleaned to remove a small build-up of algae and grass cuttings.	Park can safely be re-opened with the toddler swing remaining closed for further maintenance.

<p>Social Distancing</p>	<p>Put in place measures to support social distancing – 2m or 1m plus risk mitigations. Examples given include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit number of users at any one time • Booking system • Advisory signage • Create waiting areas with barriers 	<p>It is not possible to implement these social distancing measures, as limiting users and the implementation of a booking system are not practical for a small Parish Council.</p> <p>Use of advisory signage is appropriate.</p> <p>Creation of waiting areas with barriers is not practical.</p>	<p>Social distancing will have to be self-managed by users of the park – signage will inform of this. Signage will be displayed at the park entrance and on all items of equipment, where possible, to advise users of the measures they should be taking to ensure they remain safe; parents and carers should enforce this message.</p>
<p>Cleaning and Hygiene</p>	<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 Where practicable, provide hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities at entry and exit points. 	<p>Not practical for a small Parish Council</p>	<p>Signage displayed in the park will inform users that no cleaning of the equipment, tables and seating, refuse bins has been carried out. No hand sanitiser will be provided. Request made of DDDC to empty bins in park as a matter of priority, once opened.</p>

Face Coverings	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).	This will be a matter for users of the park to adhere to if felt necessary.	No face coverings to be provided by the Parish Council.
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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> consumption of food or drink on play equipment or in the playground area is banned 	These measures will be implemented by the Parish Council in full.	<p>Re-opening guidance will be added to the Parish Council website and included in the Parish magazine and Rowsley Village FB page.</p> <p>Appropriate signage will be displayed in the Park and on equipment, where possible.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 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. 		
Considering Children with Additional Needs	Take into account the requirements of children with additional needs.	This will be the responsibility of parents and carers.	The Parish Council will not be implementing any changes for children with additional needs, as it is not practical for them to do so.

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 	Not applicable to the Parish Council, as no staff are employed to carry out these activities.	<p>Our volunteers who carry out a monthly visual check of the play equipment and grounds, will be advised not to touch equipment, (unless absolutely necessary), other than the entrance gate. The Parish Council will provide volunteers with disposal gloves for use when carrying out the visual inspections. Volunteers will be advised that gloves must be worn at all times.</p>
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Conclusions

The annual Rospa inspection of the park was carried out on 26 May 2020 and the inspector has issued a report that raised medium risk issues with the toddler swing. These will be addressed by leaving the toddler swing closed until further maintenance has been carried out. The rest of the equipment is safe to use.

All councillors agreed that once the signage was in place, the park will re-open on Monday xxxx 2020.

Risk Assessment completed by the Clerk and conclusions agreed by all councillors on xxxxxx

xxxxxx 2020