

COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 12th MARCH 2019

ITEM NO: 14– Playground Inspection – Operational Inspection Report / Summary Visual Inspections

This report notes the Operational Inspection Report Findings (see attached PDF) and the response from the Chairman of the Parish Council. It also provides the information summary on the Visual Inspections carried out by the Parish Council Team

Information

The Operational Inspection was carried out by Engineering Design Services (Nick Adams), on 15th February 2019.

The Inspector was accompanied by Cllr. Simon Lucas on a walk around of the Playground and Sports Wall area after the Inspection was completed. Discussions took place as the immediacy or otherwise of the issues raised in the Operational Inspection.

Also included in this report is a summary of the Visual Inspection findings over the past 6 months, for information.

The Operational Inspection report is attached as an appendix.

Operational Inspection Findings

Overall, the Inspector commented very favourably on the condition of the playground and stated that it was well built and clearly being looked after by users.

There were no items designated as High Risk found.

One item was a Medium Risk.

One item was a Low / Medium Risk

Other items were Noted where any action required.

Commentary on Issues:

1. Access Pathway – Soil Erosion and Trip Hazard – (Medium Risk). *Solution will be grass reinforcing matting. Inspector advised waiting until Spring as the ground is clay and is still shrinking and expanding.*
2. Fencing – Protrusions. Some nails and a bolt protruding although not noted as a risk. *Action to address in near future.*
3. Gate – Uncontrolled. (Not an identifiable Risk). *This is now being addressed. There were issues with the first two closers obtained and the Inspector was shown the one now planned for use. Requires drill and tap fittings which are being obtained and will be fitted shortly.*
4. Litter Bin – Loose on Base Fitting (Low / Medium Risk). *Noted as being stabilised with concrete and need to access whole bin to empty. Suggested that small hook is fitted at rear onto the fence. Appropriate hook and cleat being sought. No comment re the slab mounting as viewed as satisfactory solution.*
5. MUGA – Soil Erosion. (Not an identifiable Risk). *Cannot change through route to field. Suggestion is to also lay grass matting and build up. Again, suggested as a Spring job.*
6. Basket Ball Post - Movement. (Not an identifiable Risk). *Monitor this as could be due to shrinkage and expansion of the soil. Re-concrete if necessary but check how stable in the Summer.*
7. Basketball Net- Replace. (Not an identifiable Risk). *Use a cord type net – ordered.*

8. Basket Ball Area – Some Soil Erosion. (Not an identifiable Risk). *Ideally provide a matting solution, but check how re-laying soil works as a solution.*
9. Flat Cradle Swing – Missing End Caps. (Not an identifiable Risk). *Not essential, but Creative Play contacted for spare parts.*
10. Swings – No End Caps On Posts. (Not an identifiable Risk). *Creative Play contacted re this and awaiting response.*
11. Carousel – OK
12. Trampoline – Litter – 2 items. (Not an identifiable Risk). *Creative Play contacted as to how we access under the trampoline, given the way it is sealed. Response awaited.*
13. Multi-Unit – Netting Loose Bolts. (Not an identifiable Risk). *Creative Play contacted re this as believe this may be a warranty item, given the means by which it is fitted.*
14. Challenge Trail – Loosened Bolt. (Not an identifiable Risk). *Now addressed.*

Visual Inspections Summary

Below is a table of the Visual Inspection findings, most of which are also covered in the listing above. Any additions have a narrative against them.

	Issue	Comments / Referral
1	Matting required for soil/grass abutting the path	<i>See item 1 above</i>
2	Return Spring required for gate	<i>See item 3 above</i>
3	Some erosion on the multi games area	<i>See item 5 above</i>
4	Bolts (2) on climbing ropes to be secured	<i>See item 13 above</i>
5	Half round timber fencing incorporating fencing from previous play area- original timbers are beginning to show signs of decay. 2 bolts need caps	<i>See item 2 above</i>
6	Wooden seats within fenced area need some TLC	<i>Need to assess</i>
7	Waste bin in playground area needs emptying	<i>Completed – Emptied regularly</i>
8	Is paving slab under bin a risk? Does it need fixing?	<i>No action – see above</i>
9	Waste and dog waste bin adjacent to netball frame full and rubbish lying around	<i>Completed – Emptied regularly</i>
10	Challenge trail – one of the eyebolts loose- new nut required.	<i>Checked and addressed</i>
11	Netball frame needs renewing	<i>See item 7 above</i>
12	Village slope board loose	<i>Tighten bolts</i>
13	Loose bolt on challenge trail	<i>Checked and Addressed</i>
14	Bungs missing on cross bar fitting- cradle seat swing	<i>See item 9 above</i>
15	Basketball area needs protruding bolts cut back and sign erected	<i>Need to assess</i>

Recommendation

That the report and any action planning is noted. An update will be provided in June.

S.L. 260219