

COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - TUESDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2020

ITEM NO: 11 – Playground Inspection – Operational Inspection Report / Summary of members Visual Inspections

This report notes the Annual Inspection. It also provides the information summary on the Visual Inspections carried out by the Parish Council Team.

Information

The latest Annual Inspection was carried out by N W Adams Engineering Design Services (Nick Adams), on 4th August 2020 and we received his report on the 28th August. A copy of the inspection report is attached as Appendix 1.

On receipt of the report, there were a number of queries regarding the exact status of some of the points identified by Nick Adams and the need for them to be highlighted / action undertaken. As a consequence, Cllr. Lucas, in consultation with the Clerk, drafted a query note to Nick Adams seeking clarification on specific issues which it was felt the Parish Council would benefit from in its understanding of the status of some of the comments made and the relevant resolutions to correct them.

It should be noted that the purpose of the clarification request was to aid our understanding of risk and severity of any issue and not to query the actual content of the report submitted by the Inspector. Indeed, in his reply to us, Nick Adams was complimentary that we had gone through his report in detail and raised issues, something which he stated 'it's nice to know that someone actually reads my reports!'. See Appendix 2

Also included in this report is a summary of the Parish Council Visual Inspection findings over the past 6 months, for information and in relation to the actions which have been or are planned to be undertaken.

There are two appendices to this report:

1. Appendix 1: A copy of the Annual Inspection Report.
2. Appendix 2: A copy of the query note sent to Nick Adams, his responses are shown in blue

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.

Two items were a Medium/High Risk – (one being the access point at the sports wall – see later in the report and the other being the overhead bars which was the subject of a query and see the response in the Appendix which clarifies this item)

Two items were a Medium Risk.

Two items were a Low/Medium Risk

Three items were a Low Risk

Other items were Noted where any action required.

The commentary on the issues is best observed within the context of the query note sent to the Inspector and his responses, where all of the items are addressed. See Appendix 2

Of those items which were to be noted, all are now within the work programme / visual inspection schedule we adopt for our own work.

However, one or two highlights should be noted here:

1. Access Pathway – Soil Erosion creating a Trip Hazard *Issue was initially resolved by the use of undersoil strengthening and ground levelling. However, some further erosion is noted, but it is believed that the new bicycle racks when installed will help 'deflect' the traffic and relieve the pressure on a strip of ground by the gate*
2. Gate in/out of play area – *New gate closure has been fitted*
3. Fencing (between old/new playgrounds) – Theoretical entrapment (Low Risk) – *no action needed*
4. Fencing - sharp nails projecting from original timber fence – *Nails were removed but the Inspector has managed to find a new one which needs to be dealt with!*
5. Litter Bin – Loose on concrete base – *We previously fixed the bin to base but the slab now needs to be consolidated.*
6. Basketball post – Support loose in ground (not an identified risk). *Lean being monitored.*
7. Basketball net – Loosened net to be re-attached (Not an identified risk). *Replaced as/when required.*
8. Ground around Basketball Post and football wall – Erosion of playing surface *Long term solution being discussed with Parish Hall Committee and also additional issue not in the report regarding stray 'footballs' in the playground*
9. Basketball post – Warning notice “Do not hang from the ring” should be displayed (Not an identified risk). *Signs added to “backboard” but further signage needed*
10. 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.*
11. Group Swing Seat – Frame too close to fence & ‘mixed seat’ swing too close to the ‘group seat’ swing. (Low/medium risk) – *See comments on the responses to queries*
12. Flat Seat Swing/Cradle Seat – Seats to be swapped round (Low/medium Risk) – *‘Swapping’ of swings has been identified as a solution and will be undertaken in the new year – this still needs to be undertaken as a part of one of our working sessions*
13. Multi Use Games Area (“MUGA”) – No anti-cycle bars between front side panels and the rear panels (Not an identified risk) – *See note 8 above – part of a larger solution and change process being discussed with the Parish Hall Committee*
14. MUGA – Excessive soil erosion of playing surface due to footfall (Medium/High Risk) - *Long term solution being discussed with Parish Hall Committee – see also item 8 above*
15. ‘Nest’ Seat – Possibility of entrapment within the cabled webbings (Low Risk) – *See response to query from the Inspector*
16. Trampoline – Minor Litter beneath the rebound surface (Not an identifiable Risk). *Supplier to be contacted as to how we access under the trampoline, given the way it is sealed. Noted in report as a common problem*
17. Vehicle (Drivers seat) – Tighten loose fixings (Not an identified risk).
18. Overhead Bars – There is concern of potential accidents on some types of overhead bars. There is however strong development value in these items (Medium/High Risk). *Inspection recommendations indicate equipment is compliant – the ‘risk’ is associated with using a playground! See query response from Inspector*
19. Challenge Trail – Loosened (but secure) cable link and eye bolts. (Not an identifiable Risk). *Bolts to be monitored and tightened when necessary*

Visual Inspections Summary

Below, in no particular order is a table of the Visual Inspection findings, some of which are also covered in the listing above.

	Issue	Comments / Referral
1	Grass abutting the path near gate worn	<i>To be reviewed as part of "working bee"</i>
2	Lubrication on return "Spring" for gate	<i>Recently attended to, ongoing monitor</i>
3	Ground erosion on both side of multi games wall	<i>Under discussion with Hall Committee</i>
4	Protruding nails still apparent on wooden fencing	<i>To be checked as part of "working bee"</i>
5	Benches on hall field need additional fixings	<i>Fixings being obtained</i>
6	Waste bin in playground area needs emptying on occasions	<i>Emptied regularly</i>
7	Waste and dog waste bin adjacent to basketball frame needs emptying on occasions	<i>Emptied regularly</i>
8	Basketball net post loose	<i>Lean is being monitored, refixing to be considered if deterioration seen.</i>
9	Loose screws on rope bridge	<i>All checked, ongoing monitor</i>
10	Backboards to various signs delaminating	<i>Alternative backboards to be sourced</i>
11	Missing screw caps to cradle seat	<i>Replacements to be obtained from supplier.</i>

Specific Notes:

1. In respect of the medium / high risk item on the ground conditions / anti-cycling bars etc. around the MUGA and sports wall, which is picked up in our own visual inspections as well as the report from the Inspector, this issue has now been the subject of further debate with the Parish Hall Committee. In addition to the ground problems, already identified as being more about the upper field access than the use of the football wall, and agreed as such with the Parish Hall Committee, we now have a recurrence of issues regarding stray footballs ending up in the playground and 3 instances of people being hit by them. This is clearly a major health and safety issue and is on the agenda for the Parish Hall Committee on 12th October. The matter has already been discussed with the Chair of the Parish Hall Committee. The proposal is for a joint project between the Parish Council and the Parish Hall Committee to resolve the issues related to the MUGA and the ground conditions around it. More on this once the Parish Hall Committee have met.
2. Given the clarifications regarding those items which were medium / low risk or for noting, it is proposed that a Working Bee is set up for the week commencing 19th October (volunteers are sought)

Recommendations

1. That the report and any action planning is noted – taking into account the query responses from the Inspector.
2. Additional councillors to be trained on visual inspections.
3. One Councillor to undertake full inspection training when course available
4. A Working Bee is established in the week commencing 19th October to undertake minor works repairs and changes, for which volunteers are sought.
5. An updating report will be provided in April 2021

Cllr. Simon Lucas

October 2nd 2020

N. W. Adams
Engineering Design Services

Annual Inspection Report of the Play & Sports facilities at
Pollards Moor Road, Copythorne

for

Copythorne Parish Council



Register of Play Inspectors
International Certificate No.1023A

N. W. Adams. IEng.,
19, Liddel Way,
Valley Park,
Chandler's Ford,
Hants. SO53 4QF

Tel. No. (023) 80255237
Mobile No. 07702 006686
Email: info@engineering-design-services.co.uk
Web: www.engineering-design-services.co.uk

4th August 2020

The following forms an integral part of the inspection report

1. *The equipment has been assessed, as relevant, in accordance with EN 1176: 2017 "Playground Equipment and Surfacing". The Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) has been assessed, as relevant, in accordance with BSEN 15312:2007 "Free access multi-sports equipment – Requirements, including safety and test methods."*

*Where there is a compliance failure, this is briefly noted and a risk assessment made of the failure. **Where it is believed action is required this is indicated in more detail (in italics) and identified as a medium or high risk** (see paragraph 13). Where no action is indicated, in my opinion there is no practical economic action that can be taken and the risks do not justify removal of the item.*

Low risk items should be monitored and if accidents occur, remedial action will be required (There is no such thing as NO risk). These failures to comply will continue to be monitored and, if necessary, will indicate action on future annual reports.

2. *The inspections cover:*

Site safety

Suitability and conditions of ancillary items

Standard compliance, suitability and condition of equipment

Dimensional compliance, suitability and condition of surfacing

Reports indicate the condition of the play area at the time of inspection. Subsequent events such as weather conditions, usage, or vandalism etc. may affect the condition of the play area (e.g. some surfaces may become slippery when damp). Regular inspections should be undertaken by the operator to monitor the effects of these.

3. *Standard assessment is undertaken where appraisal may be made without dismantling or destruction.*
4. *Inspections are non-dismantling inspections. Where it is felt that removal of parts for assessment is required, this will be indicated. (See paragraph 14). It is not possible to check for internal corrosion/rot without dismantling the equipment.*
5. *Surfacing has been assessed solely in terms of the area covered and its condition or security. Tests for impact absorbency are available at an economic rate if required.*
6. *Where there is open water within easy walking distance of the play area it is recommended that a water safety report be commissioned.*
7. *Where there are trees within falling distance of the play area it is recommended that a report on the integrity of the trees are obtained from a competent arboricultural expert (see www.trees.org.uk for list of qualified consultants)*
8. *Where no protective surface is provided with items which have a fall height in excess of 600mm, the installation of a protective surface should be considered. Such surfacing is not mandatory but does represent good practice. It should be noted that EN1176 & EN1177 allows well maintained grassed topsoil (not impeded by a high proportion of roots/solids/ stones/bricks) depending on conducive climatic conditions for fall heights up to 1.5m.*
9. *There should be an impact attenuating surface over the entire impact area beneath all equipment with a free fall height of more than 600mm and/or equipment causing a forced movement on the body of the user (i.e. swings, slides, rocking, cableways, carousels etc.).*
10. *In addition to inspecting the equipment and surfacing, the inspection also looked at ancillary items and general design features where relevant to safety.*
11. *Wear to shackle pins and bushes on swings is difficult to detect on non-dismantling inspections. Checks are made to identify excessive movement in the „D“ shackle and where dry bearings are obvious. Whilst this action can often identify serious defects it does not preclude the possibility of shackle pin failure in rare circumstances. It is recommended that random inspection by removal of the „D“ shackle and pin is carried out as a regular maintenance feature in the site owner's work programme.*

12. *It should be noted that this is a safety report, not a Standard compliance report, and compliance/non compliance with EN1176 is normally indicated. However where failures may not be mentioned where they are very minor, or of a technical nature, and have no noticeable effect on safety.*
13. *A risk assessment of faults and Standard failures is given in terms of low, medium and high. As a general principle items marked as "low" only require monitoring. Items marked as "medium" require appropriate action within resources and individual site assessment. Items marked as "high" require urgent action. In rare cases where an item is likely to result in major injury or death, the operator or appropriate representative will be notified from the site by telephone. This will be indicated on the report.*
14. *There can be problems with assessing ground decay where synthetic surface has been installed. Similar problems may occur with sub surface degradation. While every care is taken to check ground decay and corrosion in supports, this cannot be done fully without removal and destruction of the surface.*
15. *Many facilities are manufactured using timber or timber products. Small splinters are known in rare cases to develop to a projection upon contact and cause injury. Such splinters are very difficult to detect. Checks are made to identify such splinters where obvious but does not preclude the possibility of such circumstances occurring.*
16. *In order to provide economic reports, standard wording is used for most common standard/maintenance failures. The inspector also works using previous year's reports (where available). This may mean that where there have been few changes to the site, the current report may be similar to the previous year's report.*
17. *The Equality Act applies to play areas. There is a duty to, where practical, make reasonable provision for disabled people. EDS can advise.*
18. *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations require a risk assessment of the play area for risks to users. This is a highly specialised subject. Engineering Design Services can undertake such an assessment with the next annual inspection. EDS recommend that such formal risk assessments be undertaken every 4-5 years unless the play area is modified.*
19. *Items shown in Italics are recommended for action.*
20. *Items marked "monitor" should be included for the following inspections as defined in EN1176-1 and appropriate action should be taken when required;*
 - (a) *routine visual inspections*
 - (b) *operational inspections*
21. *Swing surfacing areas are calculated with the seat(s) set at the lowest height recommended by EN1176-2 (i.e. the maximum surfacing requirement).*
22. *Should you have any queries either telephone the number on the front cover, alternatively E-mail EDS on info@engineering-design-services.co.uk.*

RPII Inspection Methodology

This document outlines the RPII position on inspections undertaken by the Inspectors listed on the RPII Register of Inspectors for Indoor Annual, Outdoor Annual, Outdoor Operational and Outdoor Routine.

Inspections are undertaken with reference to the standards listed in this preamble only; where no date for the standard is given it the date of the standard will be that current at the time of inspection with the exception of where overlap periods are granted by the standards committee when standards are updated. The information contained in reports is provided to assist the owner/operator in fulfilling their responsibilities as detailed in the relevant standard. Other standards referenced within the listed standards do not form part of the inspection.

The following standards are relevant to all installations of equipment that are publicly accessible to users; this would include public parks, pay and play parks, schools, nurseries, public houses, holiday parks, indoor play centers, farm parks etc. All equipment used or employed in publicly accessible areas should meet with the requirements of the relevant standards (listed below);

BS EN 1176 Parts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10 & 11 Playground equipment intended for permanent installation outdoors & indoors.

BS EN 1176 Part 7 - „Guidance on Installation, Inspection, Maintenance and Operation“ (this document gives guidance to the owners/operators of the facility on the installation, inspection, maintenance and operation of playground equipment, including ancillary items).

Domestic play equipment falls outside of the scope of BS EN 1176 and has its own standard (BS EN 71 – Safety of Toys). Where domestic equipment can be identified this will be acknowledged in the report but any comments concerning compliance within the inspection will still refer to BS EN 1176.

Other equipment that is not clearly identified as unsupervised or domestic (natural play, self-build equipment etc.) will be assessed for compliance with the relevant standard listed below:

BS EN 15312 Multi use sports equipment

BS EN 14974 Wheeled sports equipment

BS EN 16630 Outdoor fitness equipment

Annual and Post Installation inspections will take into consideration compliance with current standards and defects related to wear and vandalism. Items not listed in the report have not been included in the inspection. The inspection will cover the playground equipment and the active area up to 3.0 metres around, or the fence line if closer.

Operational inspections only take into consideration defects related to wear and vandalism. Routine visual inspections (if undertaken) relate only to the most obvious defects such as broken or missing parts, vandalism and issues created by severe weather conditions (the intention is to identify hazards created by storm damage).

The inspection is non-dismantling, non-destructive and does not include for any structural, toxicology or impact assessments defined in the standard; however, the inspector will undertake a manual test for stability and if equipment fails under manual load, or any other hazard is identified as an unacceptable risk, the owner/operator will be notified as soon as practicably possible.

The inspector will access all standing surfaces as necessary on the equipment and assess all parts up to 2.5m above the standing surface. Where it is not possible to access parts of the equipment without employing an alternative means of access the report will record the action required by the owner/operator to ensure the continued safe use of the equipment. Ancillary equipment will be assessed using the inspector's knowledge and experience of the standards named in this document to ensure as far as is reasonably practicable the continued safe use of the items concerned. The owner/operator is responsible for the overall safety of the equipment and area. Inspectors who are trained to use ladders may use them where it is safe to do so, but if members of the public are present on-site ladders may not be used to access the equipment.

The inspector will not undertake any of the following works unless specifically agreed in writing at the time of order: Checking the depth and underlying structural integrity of any surface areas and/or carrying out any testing of impact absorbing properties of any surfaces. The identification of any corrosion, rot or other deterioration in any apparatus or equipment other than by an external inspection or the inspection of any equipment (or part thereof) that is underground. Tightening any bolts, hinges or other fixing devices on any apparatus or equipment. Assessing or inspecting any electrical installations contained on any site and/or apparatus and/or equipment. Assessing or inspecting any water supplies and/or water features and/or any associated computerised systems (including carrying out any programming).

Where planting or trees are mentioned in the report no aboricultural or horticultural assessments of toxicity, suitability or condition are undertaken; the owner/operator should have suitable inspections provided by a competent person.

The owner/operator should have a „design risk assessment“ provided by the manufacturer/designer of the area for the equipment and location in which the facility is installed.

The operator is responsible for managing risks of their provision and is required by law to carry out a „suitable and sufficient assessment“ of the risks associated with a site or activity and this inspection shall be considered as contributing to the operator's discharge of this responsibility.

The details contained within the report are a snapshot of the condition at the time of inspection only and subsequent events may affect the condition of the facility. Suggested remedial actions are based on the knowledge and experience of the inspector and/ or that of the inspection company. The owner/operator should seek the advice of the manufacturer or a competent person at all times when undertaking repairs and/or modifications to equipment.

The operator is responsible for following the guidance of the relevant standards. The standards give guidance on the installation, inspection, maintenance & operation of the various types of facilities. The inspection guidance is listed in Table 1, with an indication of which parts will be included in an RPII Annual or Post-Installation Inspection. The relevant standards also contain additional parts which the operator should follow.

Table 1

Inspection Recommendations of relevant standards Refer to relevant standards for full text	Annual Main	RPII Annual Outdoor/ Fully enclosed Inspection
6.1 and 6.2 c) Inspect & maintain in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions (see note 1)	✓	X [1]
6.2 a) Identify obvious hazards	✓	✓
6.2 b) Check for operation, stability and wear (see note 2)	✓	✓ [2]
6.2 b) Check sealed for life parts	✓	X
6.2 b) Check for cleanliness, equipment ground clearances, ground surface finishes, exposed foundations, sharp edges, missing parts, excessive wear (of moving parts) and structural integrity (see note 2)	✓	✓ [2]
6.2 c) Overall levels of safety of equipment	✓	✓
6.2 c) Overall levels of safety of foundations (see note 2)	✓	✓ [2]
6.2 c) Overall levels of safety of surfaces (see note 3)	✓	✓ [3]
6.2 c) Compliance with the relevant parts of the standard (see note 4)	✓	✓ [4]
6.2 c) Undertaking the responsibility of the operator's periodic, systematic assessment of the effectiveness of all their safety measures (BS EN 1176-7, 8.2.1)	✓	X
6.2 c) Effects of weather	✓	✓
6.2 c) Presence of rot or corrosion (see note 2)	✓	✓ [2]
6.2 c) Assessment of repairs made/added or replaced components (see note 5)	✓	✓ [5]
6.2 c) Excavation/dismantling/additional measures	✓	X
6.3.1 Assessment of glass reinforced plastics (see note 6)	✓	✓ [6]
6.3.2 Maintenance of one post equipment (see note 2)	✓	✓ [2]

NB The clause numbers in table 1 are taken from BS EN 1176-7. The content is equally applicable to all other relevant standards listed herein.

[1] Playgrounds contain a range of equipment from different manufacturers and installed over a number of years; operators should implement any guidance provided by the manufacturer. Item specific detail is not readily available to RPII Playground Inspectors, whose report contributes to the operator's overall Annual Main Inspection as detailed in the relevant standards.

[2] A manual test only is undertaken for stability. Wear and instability are only detectable where readily apparent without dismantling or destruction and without the use of tools, excavation or specialist equipment. Rot and corrosion are tested for with a hammer and/or steel rod. Decay in timber may exist which can only be found with specialist equipment.

[3] Only the visible condition and dimensional compliance of surface extent is considered. Neither testing of impact attenuating properties nor measurement of the thickness of bound surfaces are undertaken on RPII annual inspections.

[4] The inspection assesses compliance where this can be tested on site using manual methods without dismantling, destruction and without the use of tools or specialist equipment.

[5] The operator should use manufacturer's recommended parts, or equivalent. We are unable to verify if such parts have been used, and any subsequent change in quality or performance.

[6] Visible glass fibres will be noted in reports. The operator is responsible for repairs or replacement.

Copythorne Parish Hall Play & Sports facilities

Date of inspection
4.8.2020.

General Comments

Limited potential casual supervision available from roads, footway & properties.

Unimpeded access to the facilities.

Denotes attention is drawn to the on-going MUGA through route conflict/playing surface erosion.

Ancillary Items

Access

Footpath to the play area.

Across grass to the basketball area may be a seasonal problem for those with a mobility difficulty.

Access pathway

Soil erosion abutting the PCC edging creating a trip hazard (this is partially due to wheel & push chair users having to step aside the gate arc to gain access). *Make up flush with topsoil & re-grass in the appropriate season, if erosion & puddles remain a problem, consider slabs, grass reinforcement mats laid on mesh/geotextile material on an even surface, chased into the soil at the edges to avoid sharp gradients (<1:5) & trip zones is suggested or other durable surface (photo 1).* Medium risk



photo 1

Gate (1)

Controlled pedestrian gate (controller fitted) with a closure rate of 7 seconds.

Seats (2) ('William Lashmar' & 'The Wright Family')

Satisfactory.

Fencing

Theoretical entrapment between the abutting timber pales above the upper rail. Low risk

Several sharp nail points projecting from the original timber fence rail abutting the play area.
File/knock down flush to timber (photo 2).



photo 2

Litter bin (1)

Loose litter bin on a concrete flag base.

Secure to the base or rear fence to avoid tipping particularly when full. Low/medium risk

Signs (59)

„Children"s play area No dogs allowed" attached to the MUGA (1).

Radius accessible sharp corners of signs to 3mm minimum recommended.

Covid 19 guidance/reminder signs (8)

(i) attached to fence complete with contact details (4) (photo 3).



photo 3

(ii) attached to individual items of equipment (4).

Signs on gates are not recommended as in windy conditions they can alter the closure rate.

Basketball post & ring

Support post loose in ground.

Monitor closely for further loosening/programme to re-concrete.

Loosened basketball net loop. *Reattach to the ring hook.*

Projecting ($\geq 8\text{mm}$) bolts to the rear of the basketball backboard.

Provide dome head/cap or cut off and file down to remove sharp edges.

Some erosion of playing surface (soil & grass).

Make up playing surface level & flush with topsoil & re-grass in the appropriate season, if erosion & puddles remain a problem, programme for the provision of a durable artificial surface is recommended for consideration. Medium risk

Warning notices displayed on the backboard "Do not hang from the ring" as required by BSEN15312 (2).

Minimum Space

See „Movement Clash“ below.

Movement Clash

The „group“ seat swing frame has been installed too close to the adjacent fence and the mixed seat swing too close to the „group“ seat swing in both cases inviting passage through moving swing seats. *A minimum gap between each of 600mm is recommended.*

Low/medium risk

Younger children etc. pass through the flat seat swing motion for access to the cradle seat.

Recommend swapping these two seats. Low/medium risk

General surface/safer surfacing combined

Satisfactory.

Cleanliness and tidiness

Well maintained on a daily basis.

Equipment and Surfacing

1. Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)

BSEN15312 Compliance

The item fails to meet the requirements of BSEN 15312 in the following respect(s):

There are no anti-cycle bars (detachable) between the front side panels and the rear panel.

General Maintenance/safety comments

Wash off algae accumulation from the panels.

Playing surface

Soil/grass/grit.

General Maintenance

Excessive erosion of playing surface (soil & grass) partially due to footfall by the use of the open pedestrian through route. *Suggest alternative arrangements (gate) are made to avoid this particular through route.* Medium/high risk

Make up playing surface level & flush with topsoil & re-grass in the appropriate season, if erosion & puddles remain a problem, programming for the provision of a durable artificial surface recommended for consideration (photo 4).

Pedestrian traffic worn route through to the field behind the MUGA. *Monitor for sports balls conflicting with persons using the through route/consider providing a completely separate access (photo 4).*



photo 4

2. 2.38m maximum, 1 bay, 1 cradle/1 flat seat swing (Creative Play)

EN 1176 Compliance

The item meets the requirements of EN1176 where this may be tested on site without dismantling or destruction.

General Maintenance/safety comments

Mixing cradle/flat swing seat types in one bay is not recommended. If two or more bays or independent swing frames are available separate the seat types. In cases where only one bay or swing frame is provided no recommendation for action is made (see „Movement Clash“).

Missing recess caps (3) to the upper crotch strap fixings. *Replace.*

Untwist chains to extend their life.

Surfacing

Wet pour

Surfacing area dimensions

The surfacing meets the requirements of EN1176.

General Maintenance

The surfacing is in satisfactory condition and no work is required at this time.

3. 2.36m maximum, 1 bay, 1 ‘group’ seat swing

EN 1176 Compliance

The item meets the requirements of EN1176 where this may be tested on site without dismantling or destruction.

General Maintenance/safety comments

Entrapments within the cabled webbing of the „nest“ seat. Low risk

Surfacing

Wet pour

Surfacing area dimensions

The surfacing meets the requirements of EN1176.

General Maintenance

The surfacing is in satisfactory condition and no work is required at this time.

4. Carousel

EN 1176 Compliance

The carousel meets the requirements of EN1176 when unloaded, where this may be tested on site without dismantling or destruction.

General Maintenance/safety comments

No remedial maintenance work is required at this time.

Surfacing

Wet pour

Surfacing area dimensions

The surfacing meets the requirements of EN1176.

General Maintenance

The surfacing is in satisfactory condition and no work is required at this time.

5. Trampoline (1.44m x 1.44m) (EuroTramp)

EN 1176 Compliance

The item meets the requirements of EN1176 where this may be tested on site without dismantling or destruction.

General Maintenance/safety comments

Minor amount of litter beneath the rebound surface. *Programme to remove/contact the supplier regarding advice on access for cleaning.*

Surfacing

Wet pour

Surfacing area dimensions

The surfacing meets the requirements of EN1176 (1.72m to fence).

General Maintenance

The surfacing is in satisfactory condition and no work is required at this time.

6. Multi-unit (Creative Play)

EN 1176 Compliance

The item meets the requirements of EN1176 where this may be tested on site without dismantling or destruction.

(Note where the slide access (platform) is greater than 1.2m from the ground, the slide wall height perpendicular to the sliding surface should be 150mm minimum). Low risk

General Maintenance/safety comments

Loose vehicle „drivers“ seat. *Tighten loose fixings during a prolonged dry spell recommended.*

Slackened suspension bridge chains allowing the boards to contact. Low risk

Tighten loosened rotating bar fixings of access to the slide facing the „William Lashmar“ seat.

Tighten loosened bolts at both ends of overhead sloped ladder & rung bracket fixings during a prolonged dry spell recommended.

Tighten vertical net climber cable end fixings (12) during a prolonged dry spell recommended.

Replace missing handgrip bolt cap (1) above the vertical net.

There is concern by accidents on some types of overhead bars. There is, however, a strong development value in these items. *If possible, on angled or „S“ shaped bars, consideration should be given to level bars with firm grips & even spacings. The protective surface under all bars must be kept in good condition.* Medium/high risk

Recommend an additional feature panel board to the lower part of the highest platform to provide additional rigidity/stability to the structure/refer to the Supplier.

Open suspended bridge. *Consider an additional platform beneath if a problems for users falling through cables & steps/monitor for problems.*

Surfacing

Wet pour

Surfacing area dimensions

The surfacing meets the requirements of EN1176 (1.72m to fence).

General Maintenance

The surfacing is in satisfactory condition and no work is required at this time.

7. Challenge trail

EN 1176 Compliance

The item meets the requirements of EN1176 where this may be tested on site without dismantling or destruction.

General Maintenance/safety comments

Loosened (but secure) cable link end eye bolts (4). *Tighten as soon as possible (to avoid enlarging the bore of each hole).*

Surfacing

Wet pour

Surfacing area dimensions

The surfacing meets the requirements of EN1176 (1.72m to fence).

General Maintenance

The surfacing is in satisfactory condition and no work is required at this time.

COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – TUESDAY OCTOBER 13th 2020

ITEM 11 – APPENDIX 2

Response with Questions / Observations to Playground Inspection Report 04/08/2020 from Nick Adams, Engineering Design Services. (Black Text questions to inspector, Blue text his responses)

Dear Nick

Many thanks for your report dated 04/08/2020 which both I and our Clerk, David Rigby, have been able to work through.

Firstly, it's good to see that we continue to maintain a well-managed playground and that overall, it is reported as being in good and cared for condition.

However, there are a few points we'd like to seek your clarification / advice on prior to us feeding back to the main Parish Council. I'd be very grateful if you could let us have your views / comments in time for us to prepare a report to go to our October meeting.

Our queries etc. are as follows (I have used the annotation in your report as the indicator for each area we have identified):

1. **Access Pathway:** We have previously (after the last report), excavated the area beside the path and put plastic grass reinforcement sheets in the ground and then re-turfed. On examining the area you commented on, the level is approximately 2cms. difference at its worst point. In the near future, it is planned to place three 'butterfly' bike racks alongside the fence next to the path. We believe that this will 'disperse' foot traffic by the fence. We suspect that the ground will always sink in that area given the nature of the clay based soil, but the bike racks should help. *As mentioned in the Report, the problem here is wheel/push chair users side overspill in order to open the gate, the durable surface should control the erosion.*
2. **Fencing:** We have removed a large number of nails, but your observation is noted. In respect of the theoretical entrapment, we have noted this, albeit the Pre-School (responsible for the fence), advise that it passed their annual review. *The entrapment in accordance with the play equipment standards is theoretical, not empirical i.e. Low risk given in the Report.*
3. **Litter Bin:** The litter bin is secured to the flagstone base with 4 screws and washers. We think that the movement is in relation to the green top moving on the base plate of the bin itself – something which is a feature of the bin locking mechanism. *The base flag to which the bin is secured is moving. Low/medium risk in the Report.*
4. **Signs:** is your recommendation just to go round the corners with a fine file to round them off? *There's over 50 signs with sharp corners! A heads up for any additional future signs.*
5. **Basketball post, net and ring:** We did cut back the bolts on the rear, but will re-examine this – maybe fitting some dome head nuts. The net is a perennial issue and we are seeking alternative fixings. The post does move but when we inspected it appears to be firm in the ground but the movement is the post itself – we will continue to monitor. In respect of soil erosion, we are looking into a possible relocation of the entire system as we are of the view that it is possible it isn't located in a suitable place in relation to the playground – this also applies to the MUGA, where we have had some rogue 'ball' incidents into the playground.

6. **Movement Clash:** We would welcome your advice on this. The design and installation was signed off on completion prior to opening and this was not raised then. We can't see how we can resolve this and would welcome any input you could give us, bearing in mind that moving the fence or the frame is not possible. [This would require major surgery to alter now. The Standard requires a clear area at the side of each swing \(600mm minimum\) for users to pass round rather than be forced to move through a swing in use. The Report highlights this incorrect installation which has been repeated at Netley Marsh.](#)
7. **MUGA:** See (5) above. We were going to fit anti-cycle bars, but we are now considering alternative locations for the wall. The reasoning is that it is also causing some (accidental) issues with balls going into the playground. In addition we are working with the Parish Hall Committee on a resolution to the field access which is via the MUGA opening – hence the high degree of wear in this area (those playing on the MUGA tend not to be standing right in front of it and the wear is actually to do with the field access). [A current through route problem highlighted in the Report on page 4.](#)
8. **Cradle Swing etc:** Your reference: **2.38m maximum, 1 bay, 1 cradle/1 flat seat swing (Creative Play) EN 1176 Compliance** The item meets the requirements of EN1176 where this may be tested on site without dismantling or destruction.
General Maintenance/safety comments. Mixing cradle/flat swing seat types in one bay is not recommended. If two or more bays or independent swing frames are available separate the seat types. In cases where only one bay or swing frame is provided no recommendation for action is made (see 'Movement Clash'). We are not clear on your recommendation here. Do we swap the cradle swing over to the adjacent frame? Please advise. [The Report on page 3 suggests swapping the cradle & flat seats so the toddlers heading towards the cradle swing do not pass across the flat seat when in use by older children; this is why mixing seat types in one bay is not generally recommended.](#) Re the missing bolt caps we are trying to source these from Creative Play, but they seem to be unavailable at this time.
9. **Group Seat Swing:** You mention a theoretical entrapment in the webbing. What is your advice on this? [Again, there is a theoretical limb entrapment within the cabling should a user fall from the seat but there's no evidence of injuries in consequence that I'm aware.](#)
10. **Trampoline:** Litter underneath. This is a posser. We have asked Creative Play how to get into the base area and they stated it was 'difficult' without moving the side fixings. We will monitor and endeavour to locate a means of removing litter. [A common problem with most of these.](#)

11. Multi-unit:

- The slide access (platform) is greater than 1.2m from the ground, the slide wall height perpendicular to the sliding surface should be 150mm minimum). Low risk – do we need to do anything about this? [No, it's a Low risk non-compliance with the Standard.](#)
- Loose vehicle 'drivers' seat. *Noted*
- Slackened suspension bridge chains allowing the boards to contact. Do we need to do anything about this? [Can be painful on the shins...no action!](#)
- Tighten loosened rotating bar fixings of access to the slide facing the 'William Lashmar' seat. *Noted*
- Tighten loosened bolts at both ends of overhead sloped ladder & rung bracket fixings during a prolonged dry spell recommended. *Noted*
- Tighten vertical net climber cable end fixings (12) during a prolonged dry spell recommended. *Noted*
- Replace missing handgrip bolt cap (1) above the vertical net. *Noted*
- There is concern by accidents on some types of overhead bars. There is, however, a strong development value in these items. If possible, on angled or 'S' shaped bars, consideration should be given to level bars with firm grips & even spacings. The protective surface under all bars must be kept in good condition. Medium/high risk. We appreciate the need to have this pointed out, but as previously discussed, the 'play and risk value' afforded by this piece of equipment is a part of the purpose. Again, this was passed at end of construction prior to opening. Have the regulations changed since then to require a change to the kit? [The overhead bars meet the Standards, however, there are a lot of quite serious injuries with children failing to grip the bars & falling to the ground; it is thought this is because children are weaker above the waist nowadays due to different \(sedentary\) life styles. This is a strong developmental item and, unlike some schools, should not be removed because of the higher risk as explained in the Report.](#)
- Recommend an additional feature panel board to the lower part of the highest platform to provide additional rigidity/stability to the structure/refer to the Supplier. *Bing investigated*
- Open suspended bridge. Consider an additional platform beneath if a problems for users falling through cables & steps/monitor for problems. We are not clear what this means – could you provide more detail and is it a high risk or a low risk observation? [Due to the steps, this item is 'easily accessible' by unsupervised younger children who may not be able to cope with the open suspended bridge. Suggest monitoring for problems.](#)

Thanks Nick and we'll look forward to your responses.

Best wishes

Simon Lucas, Copythorne Parish Council