

COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – MARCH 8TH 2022

ITEM NO: 10 – Playground Inspection – Operational Maintenance Inspection Report / Summary of weekly Visual Inspections

This report notes the Operational Maintenance Inspection carried out in February 2022. It also provides the information summary on the Visual Inspections carried out by the Parish Council Team in the last few months.

Information

The latest Operational Maintenance Inspection was carried out by N W Adams Engineering Design Services (Nick Adams), on February 1st 2022. A copy of the report is attached.

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

Numbered pages 1 to 4 of the report provide a summary of specific potential issues identified with actions suggested by Nick Adams *in italics* and planned actions in response in **bold**:-

1. Litter Bin – *Loose internal play area little bin on a concrete flag base. Monitor for problems/secure concrete base/litter bin to the adjacent fence to avoid tipping particularly when full is suggested.* – **Monitoring in place, bin secured through base of concrete block no action considered required at this time.**
2. External Litter Bin adjacent to basketball post. A hard object not recommended within the playing zone. *Consider relocation from within the basketball playing zone* – **Bin has been located tight to hedge for many years. Not considered a risk**
3. North east & south west fence panel with dedicated signs attached. Rear plywood support panels are showing signs of delamination/weathering. *Recommend fitting a capping to resist ingress of water* – **Discussions taking place with former “Friends of Copythorne Playground regarding new more weather resistant panels.**
4. Children’s play area/No Dogs allowed sign missing from “MUGA” frame – *Replace sign or remove the remaining fixing screws* – **Replacement sign on order.**
5. Multi use Games Area, an alternative route has been provided to deter the route through the ball screen side gaps, however of stray ball retrieval, this is unlikely to be used. *Maintain the playing surface level & flush with topsoil & re-grassing in the appropriate season. If erosion, ruts & puddles remain a problem, programme for the provision of a durable artificial surface is recommendation for consideration* – **Ongoing monitoring programme in place.**
6. Basketball post & ring, support post loose in ground. *Monitor closely for further loosening/programme to re-concrete.* **Ongoing monitor via weekly visual inspections.**
7. Basketball post & ring, some erosion, molehills & unevenness of the playing surface (soil & grass) *Maintain the playing surface level & flush with topsoil & re-grassing in the appropriate season. If erosion, ruts & puddles remain a problem, programme for the provision of a durable artificial surface is recommendation for consideration* – **Ongoing monitoring programme in place.**
8. Flat Seat Swing/Cradle Seat – Missing recess caps (4) to the upper crotch strap fixings – *Replace missing gaps/infill with a sealer is suggested if caps are not available.* **Sealant to be replaced by Working Party**
9. Flat Seat Swing/ Cradle Seat *Untwist chains to extend their life (there is some evidence of premature chain wear at the chain “Y” fork point* – **Chains have already been untwisted. Premature wear to be discussed with Creative Play.**
10. Carousel platform plate edge rivets loose *Secure with a metal punch is suggested* - **Working party to action**
11. Trampoline – Minor Litter visible beneath the rebound surface - *Programme to remove, contact supplier regarding advice on access for cleansing.* **Supplier advised complete dismantling would be required (not under guarantee). “No risk issue”**

12. Multi-unit – Loose steering wheel hub fixing - **Tighten - Working Party to action**
13. Multi-unit - Loosened vertical climber cable end connections. *Remove timber covers, tighten fixings using the special tool & re-fit timber pieces (this work should be carried out as soon as possible to avoid enlarging the bore of each hole).* **Working Party to action**
14. Multi-unit - Loosened suspended cable bridge end fixings to the timber rails. *Remove the bolt covers, tighten & re-fit the caps (this work should be carried out as soon as possible to avoid enlarging the bore of each cable hole).* **Working Party to action**
15. Multi-unit - Recommend an additional feature panel board to the lower part of the highest platform to provide additional rigidity/stabilize this part of the structure/refer to Supplier. – **Supplier previously advised not considered necessary.**
16. Multi-unit - Replace missing hand grip bolt caps (4) above the vertical access net. – **Supplier to be contacted to source required caps**
17. Challenge Trail – Loose central post upper and lower cable end eye bolts. Remove cover caps, tighten and replace. *Loosened (but secure) cable link end eye bolts. Tighten.* **Work undertaken to different cable ends on Feb 7th. All ends checked and will be checked again by working party.**

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	See 2. above
2	Backboards panels to signs on fence delaminating (one removed for repair	See 3. above
3	Missing caps to swing seat screws	See 8. above
4	Rust on basket swing chains	Discussed with Nick, no concerns at present
5	Litter under trampoline	See 11. above
6	Minor delaminating of middle tread plate on Challenge Trail	Discussed with Nick, no concerns at present
7	Multi use games area – ground surface wearing again	Watching brief.
8	Basketball net post leans slightly	See 6. above

Recommendations

1. That the report and any action planning is noted
2. Continued use of Nick Adams to undertake annual inspection and operational inspection (6 months apart)
3. A Working party is established during March 2022 to undertake minor works repairs and changes, for which volunteers are sought.
4. An updating report will be provided once “working party” has undertaken suggested tasks

David Rigby
Clerk to Copythorne Parish Council
February 11th 2022

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

for

Copythorne Parish Council



Register of Play Inspectors
International Certificate No.1023A

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1st February 2022

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

1. *The inspection covers;*

Site safety

Condition of ancillary items

Condition of equipment and safer 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 facilities (e.g. some surfaces may become slippery when damp). Regular inspections should be undertaken by the operator to monitor the effects of these.

2. *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 on a regular maintenance feature in the site owner's work programme.*
3. *Inspection shall be undertaken without dismantling or destruction.
Where it is felt that removal of parts for assessment is required, this will be indicated.
There can be problems with assessing ground decay where synthetic surfaces have been installed. 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.*
4. *Many items of play equipment are manufactured using timber. 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 obvious splinters but does not preclude the possibility of these circumstances occurring.*
5. *Where there is a fault, this is briefly noted and normally a risk assessment is made. Where it is believed action is required this is indicated as a medium or high risk. Low risk items should be monitored and if accidents occur, remedial action will be required. These items will continue to be monitored generally and, if necessary, indicate action on subsequent reports.*
6. *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)*
7. *A risk assessment of faults is given in terms of low, medium or 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 in the report.*
8. *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*
9. *For ease of use, revised or new items relative to the previous quarterly inspection when work is required are highlighted in scripted type.*

Engineering Design Services
Operational Maintenance Inspection Report

Site

Copythorne Parish Hall Play & Sports facilities.

Date & time of inspection

1.2.2022 completed at 12.44.

Access pathway

Soil erosion abutting the PCC edging creating a trip hazard (this is partially due to wheel & push chair user 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, the provision of slabs or a durable surface similar to play equipment grass 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 (photo 1). Medium risk



photo 1

Play area boundary fencing

Satisfactory.

Pedestrian gate (1)

Pedestrian gate with a proprietary controller fitted. Return closure rate satisfactory.

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

Both satisfactory.

Litter bin (2)

Loose internal play area litter bin on a concrete flag base.

Monitor for problems/secure concrete base/litter bin to the adjacent fence to avoid tipping particularly when full is suggested.

External litter bin adjacent to the basketball post.

A hard object not recommended within the playing zone. *Consider relocation from within the basketball playing zone.*

General surface/safer surfacing

Satisfactory.

Signs (49)

North east & south west fence panel with dedication signs attached (41).

The rear plywood support panels are showing signs of delamination/weathering.

Recommend fitting a capping to resist the ingress of water.

'Please shut the gate' attached to the pedestrian gate (1).

'Parents & guardians' attached to the pedestrian gate (1).

'Playground rules' sign attached to fence (1).

'CCTV' warning sign attached to fence (1).

'Paultons Park' advertisement sign attached to fence (1).

'NFDC' sign attached to fence (1).

Playground 'dedication' sign attached to fence (1).

'Children's play area No dogs allowed' missing from the MUGA frame (1).

Replace sign or remove the remaining fixing screws (6).

Cleanliness and tidiness

Satisfactory.

Equipment and Surfacing

1. Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)

An alternative route (separate access) has been provided to deter the route through the ball screen side gaps, however, for stray ball retrieval, this is unlikely to be used.

Maintain the playing surface level & flush with topsoil & re-grassing in the appropriate season. If erosion, ruts & puddles remain a problem, programme for the provision of a durable artificial surface is recommended for consideration (photo 2).



photo 2 (N.E. play area side)

2. Basketball post & ring

Support post loose in ground.

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

Some erosion, molehills & unevenness of the playing surface (soil & grass).

Maintain the 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.

3. 2.38m maximum, 1 flat/1 cradle seat swing (Creative Play)

Missing recess caps (4) to the upper crotch strap fixings.

Replace missing caps/infill with a sealer is suggested if caps are not available.

Untwist chains to extend their life (there is some evidence of premature chain wear at the chain 'Y' fork point).

4. 2.36m maximum 1 bay, 1 group seat swing (Creative Play)

Satisfactory.

5. Carousel

Platform plate edge rivets loose. *Secure with a metal punch is suggested.*

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

Minor litter visible beneath the rebound surface. Programme to remove, contact supplier regarding advice on access for cleaning.

7. Multi-unit

Loose steering wheel hub fixing. *Tighten.*

Loosened vertical climber cable end connections. Remove timber covers, tighten fixings using the special tool & re-fit timber pieces (this work should be carried out as soon as possible to avoid enlarging the bore of each hole).

Loosened suspended cable bridge end fixings to the timber rails. *Remove the bolt covers, tighten & re-fit the caps (this work should be carried out as soon as possible to avoid enlarging the bore of each cable hole).*

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

Replace missing hand grip bolt caps (4) above the vertical access net.

8. Challenge trail

Loose central post upper and lower cable end eye bolts. *Remove cover caps, tighten & replace caps (photos 3 & 4).*



photo 3 (lower)



photo 4 (upper)