

## Crowthorne Parish Council

### Re-opening of Play and Outdoor Gym Equipment

#### Risk Assessment

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”.

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 fenced toddler play area, outdoor gym equipment, teenage shelter and unfenced play equipment at the Morgan Recreation Ground, Lower Broadmoor Road, Crowthorne.

Key Principle	Government Guidance	Actions Required	By Whom
General Maintenance Issues following Lockdown	Ensure equipment is safe to use and that risks from damaged or defective equipment are addressed before opening.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Full annual ROSPA inspection was carried out in February 2020. Remedial actions &amp; recommendations were actioned.</li><li>• Grounds team to carry out a comprehensive inspection of all equipment prior to re-opening</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• N/A</li><li>• Grounds team</li></ul>
Social Distancing	Put in place measures to support social distancing – 2m or 1m plus risk mitigations. Examples given	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Signage advising / reminding users of:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ the need to maintain</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clerk to create poster</li><li>• Grounds team to locate posters on entrances to play areas</li></ul>

	<p>include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit number of users at any one time</li> <li>• Booking system</li> <li>• Advisory signage</li> <li>• Create waiting areas with barriers</li> <li>• Consider use of one way system for outdoor gym or moving equipment to 2m distancing</li> </ul>	<p>social distancing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Limit number of family groups in toddler play area to 3 households</li> <li>○ Limit session times to 10 minutes at busy times</li> <li>○ general hygiene measures</li> <li>○ Come back later if the park is already busy or social distance queuing</li> <li>○ One way system with one in and one out gate in toddler play area</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Booking system &amp; supervision impractical and no staff on site to manage</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grounds staff to mark 2 metre social distance marks on path.</li> <li>• Gym equipment and play equipment is already spread out at greater than 2m distances.</li> </ul>
<p>Cleaning and Hygiene</p>	<p>Clean high traffic touch points frequently. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Play Equipment</li> <li>• Seating Areas</li> <li>• Refuse Bins</li> </ul> <p>In addition, use signage to encourage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Users to clean equipment before and after use</li> <li>• Use of hand sanitiser and frequent hand washing</li> </ul> <p>Where practicable, provide hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities at entry and exit points.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review which equipment is suitable for 'wiping down' (equipment with fabric / wood / rope handles is not possible, but metal or plastic can be wiped down)</li> <li>• <i>Clerk and Ground Staff to carry out 'walk around' on Friday 3 July to review which equipment could be wiped down (likely maximum of once per day)</i></li> <li>• Signage to include details of hand washing facilities in public toilets at Morgan Rec. during</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clerk to create poster</li> <li>• Grounds team to locate posters on entrances to play areas</li> <li>• Grounds staff to wipe down high touch areas on gates &amp; wipeable equipment at 10.30am Monday-Friday and when unlocking the public toilets at the weekends.</li> <li>• Public toilet cleaner to wipe down high touch areas on gates &amp; wipeable high touch play equipment when cleaning down</li> </ul>

		<p>opening hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Posters to remind parents/carers to wipe equipment, and wash/sanitise children's hands before &amp; after play.</li> </ul> <p>Not practicable for CPC to provide outdoor hand sanitiser equipment due to risk of misuse (contains high % of alcohol), theft and vandalism.</p>	<p>public toilets at the end of each day Monday-Friday and when locking up at the weekends.</p>
Face Coverings	<p>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).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All play areas are outdoors and not enclosed, so this is not a concern.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
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"> <li>• consumption of food or drink on play equipment or in the playground area is banned</li> <li>• parents, guardians or carers should dispose of all litter including any used protective wear such as face coverings or</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signage can note that eating and drinking in the park are strongly discouraged</li> <li>• Signage can encourage the responsible disposal of used PPE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clerk to create poster</li> <li>• Grounds team to locate posters on entrances to play areas</li> </ul>

	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No further requirements identified specific to children with special needs</li> </ul>	
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"> <li>cleaning playground equipment/surrounding areas</li> <li>managing queues of those waiting to use equipment</li> <li>stewarding equipment to ensure users comply with rules made by the owner/operator</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grounds staff (potentially) carrying out 'wipe downs' can wear PPE if they choose and dispose of waste responsibly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grounds Team</li> </ul>

### Conclusions

- Clerk & Groundsman PC to review practicalities of wiping play equipment each morning
- Poster to be located at playground entrances and shared on social media etc.

Risk Assessment undertaken by the Clerk – 29.6.2020.

To be reviewed by: **TBC**

June 2020