

POTTERSPURY PARISH COUNCIL - RISK ASSESSMENT
RE-OPENING OF PLAY AREAS, PLAY EQUIPMENT, OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT, MUGA & SKATEPARK
 Adopted by Potterspurry Parish Council 8 July 2020

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-managing-playgrounds-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 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 play areas and equipment in Potterspurry.

MEADOW VIEW, MAYS WAY & BLACKWELL END PLAY AREAS

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.	CPM Playgrounds Ltd inspected all play areas and play equipment on Friday 26 June 2020. All play areas and equipment will be inspected on a fortnightly basis by Councillors. CPM Playgrounds Ltd will inspect on a quarterly basis. The Play Inspection Company Ltd will inspect on an annual basis.	Any maintenance issues will be dealt with by the Handyman or as necessary.
Social Distancing	Put in place measures to support social distancing – 2m or 1m plus risk mitigations. Examples given include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit number of users at any one time • Booking system • Advisory signage • Create waiting areas with barriers 	Play equipment is spaced, but issues may arise where equipment can be used by more than one child at a time. Sharing seating and picnic tables by non-family members would contravene social distancing guidance.	Signage advises to maintain social-distancing and no groups. See also Play Areas & Play Equipment Covid-19 Re-opening Policy. On social media and PC website www.potterspurrypc.org.uk

		<p>SKATEPARK will be limited to a maximum of 10 people at any one time – signage to support.</p> <p>MUGA will be limited to a maximum of 10 people at any one time – signage to support.</p>	<p>SKATEPARK – failure to observe maximum user numbers will result in closure.</p> <p>Area has CCTV but is not monitored.</p>
Cleaning and Hygiene	<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 <p>Where practicable, provide hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities at entry and exit points.</p>	<p>This is not practicably possible to implement or monitor by the Parish Council – no staff or available funding.</p> <p>The advisory signage advises to wipe down equipment before and after use with antibacterial wipes and to dispose of them safely at home.</p> <p>Providing hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities by the Parish Council is not an option.</p>	<p>It is accepted that there is a risk of children using the play equipment passing the virus, however this is no greater than them being at school.</p> <p>Advisory signage provides good advice and minimises risks.</p> <p>See also Play Areas & Play Equipment Covid-19 Re-opening Policy. On social media and PC website www.potterspurypc.org.uk</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>	<p>All areas are outside.</p> <p>Not practicable and impossible to implement or monitor.</p>	<p>This is for the individual, parent, guardian or carer to decide not the Parish Council.</p>
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"> • consumption of food or drink on play equipment or in the playground area is banned 	<p>The provision of signage and information on social media, the Parish Council website, John Hellins Primary School (prior to school closure for summer holidays) and generally by word of mouth, should provide sufficient communication with potential users.</p>	<p>The steps proposed would mitigate the risks significantly.</p> <p>See also Play Areas & Play Equipment Covid-19 Re-opening Policy. On social media and PC website www.potterspurypc.org.uk</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	These are risks which can only be assessed by parents, guardians or carers.	The Parish Council are not providers of specialist services for children with additional needs and any risk assessment and decisions on use of equipment must be undertaken by parents, guardians or carers.
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.	

The village play areas provide much-needed areas to exercise in a safe environment. Advice from the Government, SLCC and NCALC has been noted. Whilst it must be acknowledged that there is risk of the transmission of Covid 19, it is the view of the Parish Council that the steps outlined above will enable the play areas to re-open as safely as possible.

Adopted by Potterspury Parish Council 8 July 2020