

## Hellesdon Parish Council

### Re-opening of Play Equipment

#### Risk Assessment

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 three open access Play Parks in Crakehall.

| Key Principle                                 | Government Guidance   | Assessment   | Conclusion  |
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| General Maintenance Issues following Lockdown | Ensure equipment is safe to use and that risks from damaged or defective equipment are addressed before opening.  | Normal daily visual inspection along with monthly inspection of all equipment to take place prior to opening. Annual Inspection by ROSPA due w/c 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2020.   | Low Risk – no increase due to COVID.  |
| 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"><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>• Swings removed to allow</li></ul> | Posters to advise users to social distance, parents to supervise.<br><br>All areas have adjacent space to allow for any people waiting to use the equipment to wait safely and see those on the equipment.<br><br>Caretakers to remove every other swing | Not possible in public areas to limit those accessing equipment, reliance on members of the public to adhere to government advice.<br><br>Only one swing in each bay. |

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|  | distancing  |   |   |
| Cleaning and Hygiene                               | <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> <li>• Bins emptied daily and sanitised</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>Advice to be given on notices.<br/>Equipment to be cleaned weekly as part of maintenance operative's inspection.<br/>Daily wipe of gates</p> | <p>Daily cleaning of high touch areas, gates and benches with disinfectant sanitiser by staff<br/>Advise parents to wipe equipment before use and clear signage to wash hands<br/>Playground will be closed when weekly full clean being done</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 equipment in outdoor areas.</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"> <li>• consumption of food or drink on play equipment or in the playground area is banned</li> </ul>  | <p>Signage to be erected.</p>   | <p>Playareas to be open between 9am and 5pm Monday to Saturday<br/>10am to 4pm Sunday<br/>To allow time for wipe down of high touch areas.</p>  |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Limited access to playareas</li> </ul>  |   |   |
| Considering Children with Additional Needs | Take into account the requirements of children with additional needs.  | Signs to be clear, to contain pictorial design, and large enough to be easily read. | Consideration to be given to height of sign.  |
| 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> | Correct equipment to be provided to all staff.                                      | If continuous verbal/physical abuse aimed at staff, council to take zero tolerance policy and playareas will close as a preventative measure. |

## Conclusions

**The Parks should not be re-opened until adequate and comprehensive signage is in place along with risk assessment**

**Risk Assessments undertaken by Clerk and Head Groundsman agreed by council.**

**Taken to full council on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020**