

## Longford Parish Council

### Re-opening of Play Area

#### 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 one parish council-owned play area in Longford.

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.	Wicksteed carried out annual safety inspection on 29/06/20 – the two cradle swings will need replacing due to cracking in the rubber. A visual inspection by the Clerk shows no major risks.	Equipment safe for use but will replace the cracking cradle swings asap.
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>• Limit number of seats on equipment</li><li>• Booking system</li><li>• Advisory signage</li><li>• In / Out gates</li><li>• Create waiting areas with barriers</li></ul>	Equipment is well-spaced, more than 2 metres apart. However, swing seats are within 1 metre. Seesaw seats are slightly less than 2 metres but more than 1 metre.  Booking system not practical due to publicly accessible space opens 24 hours a day. No on-site staff to enforce a limit on numbers.  Advisory signage cost effective solution to remind visitors to adhere to social distancing.	Remove one swing seat from each bay in the play park to ensure social distancing.  Purchase signage for in / out system.  Purchase stencil and spray paint to put social distance reminders on the safety surfacing in the play park and in the basketball area.

		<p>Park has 2 gates so can implement an In / Out system by purchasing signage.</p> <p>The play equipment has been well used in the past, but has not been overcrowded</p>	<p>Purchase and install signage in the play park and at the youth pod and basketball area.</p> <p>Waiting area not required as equipment is well spaced and families can play on the field whilst waiting to use equipment.</p>
Cleaning and Hygiene	<p>Where practicable, 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>	<p>Not practicable to carry out regular cleaning due to insufficient staffing/high cost of frequent cleaning.</p>	<p>Publish guidelines on the notice board next to the play park and summary guidelines on a large banner advising visitors to wash hands/use own hand sanitiser.</p> <p>Cleaning of the equipment could lead to a false belief that the equipment is Covid 19 virus free.</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>Visitors will be able to social distance in the play park.</p>	<p>Face coverings not considered necessary as it is possible for 2m social distancing.</p> <p>Publish guidelines on the notice board next to the play park advising visitors to consider returning another day/time if the park is busy.</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</p>	<p>Signage to be purchased for play area.</p>	<p>Signage to be purchased and installed by the Clerk.</p>

	<p>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 gloves properly in litter bins, taking it home where a bin is not provided.</li> </ul>	<p>Social media posts on Longford Noticeboard and on Council website updating on closure and opening plans.</p> <p>Litter bins located outside the play area, one is near the exit point.</p>	<p>Guidelines to be published on the adjacent notice board.</p> <p>Play area opening to be published on social media and council website.</p> <p>Risk assessment to be published on council website and sent to insurer.</p> <p>Banner on play area railings advising of guidelines.</p>
Considering Children with Additional Needs	Take into account the requirements of children with additional needs.	Equipment is well spaced, other visitors will be able to keep socially distant.	Pictorial signage as well as word signage to be used.
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>	<p>One member of part-time office-based staff. Not practical to carry out regular cleaning so will not be making frequent visits to the play area.</p> <p>No on-site management of the equipment; reliant on the public to adhere to the signage.</p> <p>Staff and councillors at risk of abuse if they need to challenge users if not complying with the advice</p>	Low risk to office-based staff.

**5<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

Risk Assessment undertaken by Clerk under delegated Power.

Total Costs for signage, stencil, banner = £150

Play area to re-open 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020 once all safety measures are in place.