

## Parish Council

### Covid – 19 Council play area and outdoor gym Risk Assessment

The x Parish Council is committed to re-opening its play areas and outdoor gym equipment on the 4 July 2020 at a time when the Covid-19 pandemic is still ongoing. The Council recognises the need to provide community facilities to help people enjoy outdoor activity but also recognises that it must provide a safe environment for those using the facilities and staff that facilitate the services.

This risk assessment has been prepared for the re-opening of the play areas and outdoor gym equipment on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2020 and will be kept under regular review to include all government guidelines and requirements on the Council.

Release of Covid-19 lockdown of Play Areas and Outdoor Gym equipment Safety Risk Assessment

<b><i>Hazard linked to Covid-19</i></b>	<b><i>Potential risks to persons entering play areas and using the outdoor gym equipment</i></b>	<b><i>Control measures</i></b>
<b>Infection Prevention, Cleaning and Safety of all persons</b>		
<p>The equipment and sites must be secured against Covid-19 to reduce the risk of virus transmission</p>	<p>There is a direct threat to all person's health and wellbeing from transmission of Covid-19 in the play areas and on the outdoor gym equipment.</p> <p>Persons can catch the virus from others who are infected in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Virus moves from person to person in droplets from the nose or mouth and are spread when a person with the virus coughs or exhales</li> <li>• The virus can survive for up to 72 hours out of the body on surfaces that persons have coughed on</li> <li>• People can pick up the virus by breathing in the droplets or by touching contaminated surfaces and then touching their eyes or mouth</li> </ul>	<p>We will ensure that the organisation complies with its duty to provide a safe and healthy workplace/working conditions and safe public facility by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing signage stating what the arrangements of the Council are in relation to each site</li> <li>• Require all persons to practise effective social distancing while in and around the play areas and outdoor gyms</li> </ul> <p>The following messages will be promoted at the sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cover the mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve (not hands) when coughing or sneezing</li> <li>• Put used tissues in the bin straight away</li> <li>• Use hand sanitiser regularly</li> <li>• Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects</li> <li>• Do not touch face, eyes, nose or mouth whilst in the play area or using the gym.</li> </ul>

<b>Hazard linked to Covid-19</b>	<b>Potential risks to persons entering play areas and using the outdoor gym equipment</b>	<b>Control measures</b>
		<p>The following key safety precautions will be undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk assessments will be kept under review to ensure that a safe place of play and exercise is maintained</li> <li>• All government health advice will be followed</li> <li>• Cleaning schedules will be undertaken at least twice a day focussing on the high risk multi contact points</li> </ul>
<b>Social Distancing</b>		
<p>Effective social distancing is a key element in reducing the transmission of Covid-19</p>	<p>Social distancing refers to people being required to maintain a distance from each other of 2 metres wherever possible. Social distancing effectively puts people at a safe range from anyone coughing. The main route of virus transmission is through droplets exhaled or coughed by an infected person.</p>	<p>The X Parish Council has adopted a 2 metre social distancing requirement for its play areas and outdoor gym. All persons will be required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid non-essential contact with others</li> <li>• Keep a safe distance of at least 2 metres from others wherever possible</li> <li>• Avoid physical contact</li> </ul> <p>The play areas will be adapted where required to enable social distancing to be implemented and maintained.</p> <p>Use of individual pieces of equipment within the play areas is limited to one household at one time.</p> <p>Signs will be placed at the entrance to the areas reminding people of the need to socially distance and of the limits of number of households per piece of equipment.</p> <p>Persons will be required to vacate the equipment for cleaning to be undertaken.</p>

<b><i>Hazard linked to Covid-19</i></b>	<b><i>Potential risks to persons entering play areas and using the outdoor gym equipment</i></b>	<b><i>Control measures</i></b>
<b>Higher Risk Areas of the Workplace</b>		
<p>Some parts of the play areas and outdoor gym equipment may present a higher risk than others – this includes areas such as the gates and hand holds.</p>	<p>Heavily used areas of the play areas and outdoor gyms are more likely to present an infection risk. It is essential for all persons to use hand sanitiser regularly.</p> <p>More than one person using a toilet together may compromise their ability to socially distance. There is an increased risk of people coughing and touching door handles, taps and toilet handles/lids.</p> <p>Community members entering the play areas and using the outdoor gym equipment may introduce covid-19 contamination</p>	<p>Ensure higher risk high traffic areas of the play areas and outdoor gym equipment are covid-19 secure by applying appropriate safety precautions including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stress to all people the need to follow good hygiene practice at all times whilst in the play area and using the outdoor gym equipment</li> <li>• Areas with high traffic to be monitored and managed as appropriate</li> <li>• Users to be required to bring hand sanitiser with them when they visit and to use it frequently and regularly</li> <li>• Environmental cleaning to be increased. Higher risk areas to be cleaned twice daily</li> </ul>
<b>Vulnerable and Extremely Vulnerable users of the play areas and outdoor gym equipment</b>		
<p>Some people may have conditions which render them more vulnerable to the dangers of Covid-19</p>	<p>Those who are identified by PHE as being at greater risk from Covid-19 include people in the vulnerable (moderate risk) and extremely vulnerable (high risk) categories</p>	<p>The following safety and health arrangements will apply to persons who are classed as vulnerable or extremely vulnerable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support to be provided to ensure that adequate protection is given to enable them to comply with the government health recommendations</li> <li>• No vulnerable or extremely vulnerable person should attend the play area or use the outdoor gym equipment during the pandemic without liaising with the Parish Council; government guidelines and their personal medical advice is to be followed. The Parish Council will arrange a specific time slot for the equipment to be cleaned and to be for the sole use of the identified vulnerable person.</li> </ul>

<b>Hazard linked to Covid-19</b>	<b>Potential risks to persons entering play areas and using the outdoor gym equipment</b>	<b>Control measures</b>
<b>Staff Health and Staffing Levels</b>		
Low staffing hazards due to high rates of staff sickness or staff having to self isolate/quarantine themselves at home	Staff may get sick with Covid-19.  People who have symptoms must “self isolate” at home for 7 days from the start of symptoms to prevent them from passing the infection on and contributing to the overload on the NHS. Those who live with others or who have been traced by ‘contact and trace’ are required to quarantine for 14 days.	In the case of staff sickness reducing the workforce to a level that cleaning and assistance to persons using the play areas and outdoor gym equipment cannot be maintained the Council will endeavour to engage contractors or will close the facilities.
<b>Cases of Possible Infection On-site</b>		
People becoming unwell while on-site or a symptomatic person using the site	High risk of transmission	<p>If a person becomes unwell whilst in the play area or when using the gym equipment, with coronavirus symptoms (a new continuous cough or a high temperature) they must go home and then inform the Council.</p> <p>When the Council becomes aware that a potentially infected persons has used one of the play areas and/or outdoor gym equipment the following actions will be taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The specific area/equipment will be closed</li> <li>• All surfaces that the symptomatic person may have come into contact with must be cleaned and disinfected, especially objects visibly contaminated with body fluids and all potentially contaminated high contact areas such as gates and handholds</li> <li>• Cleaning staff should use disposable cloths or paper roll and a combined detergent disinfectant solution at a dilution of 1000 parts per million available chlorine</li> <li>• Cleaning staff must wear appropriate PPE</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste from cleaning of areas where possible cases have been (including disposable cloths and tissues) should be “double-bagged” and tied off; the waste must be placed in a secure holding area for 72 hours before being disposed of in general waste</li> </ul>
<b>Record keeping</b>		
<p>Hazards are created when tasks are not undertaken and identified risks not actioned</p>	<p>The Council needs to be proactive in taking appropriate action at the right time and in the right place in order to protect all persons</p>	<p>Sign off sheets for the twice daily cleaning of high risk ‘pinch points’ will be implemented and retained. Each sheet includes the identification of issues and concerns and that these must be passed to the clerk/supervisor or other appropriate person.</p> <p>An action log will be kept of all actions taken to deal with issues identified.</p>
<b>Information</b>		
<p>Hazards are caused by lack of information or inaccurate information being circulated</p>	<p>The pandemic has been accompanied by a large amount of official guidance, which requires interpretation. There is also misinformation, rumour and “fake news” or “myths”. If these are allowed to gain traction within the community they can obscure and confuse vital health and safety measures.</p>	<p>The following safety information arrangements will be applied to mitigate risks caused by misinformation and no information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone strategies will be based on accurate information and everyone will be given consistent, simple and clear messages</li> <li>The covid-19 risk management team will monitor official advice carefully and update all policies and procedures as required</li> <li>Staff and contractors will be briefed on any changes to the policies and guidance</li> <li>Signage will be placed at appropriate places providing information for the specific play area and outdoor gym equipment. The signage will provide instruction based on this risk assessment</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Councils website will provide bespoke safety advice for each play area and outdoor gym equipment and provide detail on how to request a specific slot for a vulnerable user</li><li>• The safety messages will also be placed on the Councils social media sites</li></ul>