



RISK BENEFIT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PEDESTAL PLAYING FIELD, WEST WYCOMBE AS AT 1st JUNE 2023

COVID-19

Hazard

With immunisation and the WHO declaring the pandemic is over this will no longer be fully risk assessed. Should such an event occur again the Parish Council will comply with all government guidance as we did, to the best of our ability, throughout the period of the pandemic in 2020/21.

Possible Outcome / Worst Case

Illness

Risk Assess for Age / Ability

Low

Is Risk Apparent and Controllable to children participating

No

THE PLAYING FIELD SITE

Hazard

The proximity of the A4010, Cookshall Lane and the railway line.

Possible Outcome/Worst Case

Collision with vehicle. Train track accident. Death.

Risk Assess for Age / Ability

Medium/High

Reasonable and practical steps to avoid or reduce problem

The play area is fenced and a double gate system has been created to allow parents the opportunity to 'control' their children before leaving the playing field. The car park has been fenced off to make interaction with children and cars less likely. The car park is on the opposite side of the field to the play area. Younger children should be accompanied by an adult. The Pre School and Toddler Group supported the play area knowing the road conditions prior to us starting the project. There is a clear vision splay for vehicles and pedestrians from the playing field on to the pavement running alongside the A4010.

The field is inspected and the litter bins emptied regularly.



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Value of allowing the activity

Good for physical and mental health if the guidelines are followed.

Decision

The benefits outweigh the risks.

BRADENHAM ROAD (A4010) ACCESS

Hazard

The main trunk road to Aylesbury with high volumes of traffic therefore a risk of road traffic collision

Possible Outcome / Worst Case

Injury or death

Risk Assess for Age / Ability

High for all age groups

Is Risk Apparent and Controllable to children participating

Not to young children, but obvious to parents. With older children who have been given road sense training they should be able to assess the risk.

Reasonable and practical steps to avoid or reduce problem

The play area is fenced and a double gate system has been created to allow parents the opportunity to 'control' their children before leaving the playing field. The car park has been fenced off to make interaction with children and cars less likely. The car park is on the opposite side of the field to the play area. Younger children should be accompanied by an adult. The Pre School and Toddler Group supported the play area knowing the road conditions prior to us starting the project. There is a clear vision splay for vehicles and pedestrians from the playing field on to the pavement running alongside the A4010.

Value of allowing the activity

This is the only area available for a play area therefore we must manage it to ensure that children will have access to play/equipment. Children living in this area close to High Wycombe must develop road sense skills as once they move to senior school they will need these for their safety.

Decision

To go ahead being constantly aware of road issues. We have investigated a crossing being erected but we would need to fund it and would not get the support of Thames Valley Police or Buckinghamshire Council at this site due to the speed limits.



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COOKSHALL LANE ACCESS

Hazard

Narrow lane, residents on the furthest side, a railway bridge, petrol station and workshop - problems caused by the railway and the petrol station/garage/shop and farm traffic

Possible Outcome / Worst Case

Issues with alcohol purchased from the petrol station shop; train accident; explosion at petrol station; increase of vehicles visiting garage and petrol station. Potential for serious accidents/incidents. The play equipment is sited at the furthest side of the field which should not cause any noise/vandalism problems for residents and keep the children away from issues related to the garage. The railway line runs behind the whole field but there is a 2m high metal security fence along this boundary

Risk Assess for Age / Ability

Low to medium. High for teenagers who decide to experiment with alcohol away from the home environment and dare each other re trains, alcohol etc

Is Risk Apparent and Controllable to children participating

The risks are only obvious to the 12 plus age group and can be minimised.

Reasonable and practical steps to avoid or reduce problem

The 2m high metal fence to the rear boundary makes access to the railway line extremely difficult. The Parish Council has a comprehensive Emergency Plan and **works with Buckinghamshire Council and Thames Valley Police in case there are issues relating to underage drinking and anti social behaviour.**

Value of allowing the activity

We live in a rural/suburban community and these are the normal issues to be considered.

Decision

The benefit of access to a play area for social skills and health for life.



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PLAYING FIELD BOUNDARY

Hazard

Trees, hedging - children climbing the trees and trying to get through the hedge and injury on the thorns within the hedge. Metal gates.

Possible Outcome / Worst Case

Broken limbs from falling off a tree and scratches from the hedge and access to the road through the hedge. Fingers caught in self closing gate.

Risk Assess for Age / Ability

Low to medium for all age groups

Is Risk Apparent and Controllable to children participating

The opportunities would be seen by older children but not by young children.

Reasonable and practical steps to avoid or reduce problem

Trees and hedges are inspected and cut. The trees are inspected on a regular basis and work undertaken as advised by the arboriculturist.

Value of allowing the activity

Most of our children have been brought up in the countryside and need to learn what plants have thorns, how thick branches need to be to bear their weight. Children need to accept boundaries are there for their own safety. Trees, hedges and grass as a natural surrounding have been shown to induce calm and reduce stress.

Decision

Regularly inspect. All trees have been inspected and works carried out where necessary. Keep the hedge cut and healthy.



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THE FIELD

Hazard

Cuts from broken glass and litter. Dog faeces.

Possible Outcome / Worst Case

Cuts and toxacara from dog faeces.

Risk Assess for Age / Ability

Low to medium

Is Risk Apparent and Controllable to children participating

No.

Reasonable and practical steps to avoid or reduce problem

Three litter bins have been installed and are emptied regularly, the waste being collected by Buckinghamshire Council.

Two dog faeces bins installed and emptied by a private contractor every week. The area is inspected every week. Signs erected asking people to clear up after their dogs and to keep dog on a lead.

Value of allowing the activity

Children must learn to be tidy and put away their own litter and to learn that sometimes other people can leave dangerous items on the ground.

Decision

Learn for life skills. We have not banned dogs as many families take their dogs with them. Children must learn that dogs should be approached with caution.



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TABLES AND SEATS

Hazard

Running into them and falling off them.

Possible Outcome / Worst Case

Bumps and possible broken limbs as well as splinters.

Risk Assess for Age / Ability

Low to medium

Is Risk Apparent and Controllable to children participating

Yes.

Reasonable and practical steps to avoid or reduce problem

Highly visible and maintained.

Value of allowing the activity

Seating allows social interaction and encourages parents to watch their children for safety and supervision. Encourage family eating.

Decision

Maintain and watch for deterioration of wood surface for splinters.



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ROUTES AROUND EQUIPMENT

Hazard

Bumping into each other and running into swings.

Possible Outcome / Worst Case

Bumps and possible skull damage.

Risk Assess for Age / Ability

Low to medium

Is Risk Apparent and Controllable to children participating

Yes.

Reasonable and practical steps to avoid or reduce problem

All equipment is highly visible and installed by an experienced play equipment company who took children's routing into account. Barriers have been erected between each set of swings.

Value of allowing the activity

Make children think about their own actions and those of other people.

Decision

Keep play pathways clear.



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SAFETY SURFACING

Hazard

Injury caused by falling from equipment with inappropriate surface installed.

Possible Outcome / Worst Case

Possible broken limbs and cracked skull.

Risk Assess for Age / Ability

Low to medium

Is Risk Apparent and Controllable to children participating

No - need to learn to assess the dangers of falling from height.

Reasonable and practical steps to avoid or reduce problem

Safety surfacing appropriate to each piece of equipment has been installed.

Value of allowing the activity

Teach children to assess the dangers.

Decision

Maintain safety surfacing and keep grass cut short.



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GOAL POSTS

Hazard

Running into them; swinging from them

Possible Outcome / Worst Case

Broken limbs from dropping of them or a bump on the head from running into them

Risk Assess for Age / Ability

Low to medium

Is Risk Apparent and Controllable to children participating

Yes - too tall for young children to swing from them. Everyone could run/walk into them.

Reasonable and practical steps to avoid or reduce problem

Highly visible and extremely well installed in the ground

Value of allowing the activity

Football is a good team game allowing social interaction and a competitive spirit. Excellent activity for young people for fitness.

Decision

Maintain goalposts to a safe standard.



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WOODEN TRAIL

Hazard

Losing balance and falling off

Possible Outcome / Worst Case

Possible broken limbs/twisted ankle

Risk Assess for Age / Ability

Low to medium

Is Risk Apparent and Controllable to children participating

No - basically safe and the children must learn to assess their own ability.

Reasonable and practical steps to avoid or reduce problem

All on a low level and installed in grass

Value of allowing the activity

Teach children to assess their own ability and to challenge themselves and to achieve. Improve balance.

Decision

Inspect regularly and maintain the wood to ensure no potential for splinters.



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BASKET SWING

Hazard

Standing and not holding on. Running in front and behind it.

Possible Outcome / Worst Case

Bumps and falling off if standing in it without holding on possibly causing broken limbs. Being knocked over by the swing causing at worst a skull fracture.

Risk Assess for Age / Ability

Low to medium

Is Risk Apparent and Controllable to children participating

Basically safe unless used incorrectly.

Reasonable and practical steps to avoid or reduce problem

Properly installed and safety surface installed.

Value of allowing the activity

Make children aware of their surroundings and use their judgement of distance and consequences of walking in front or behind a swing. Disability Discrimination Act accessible.

Decision

Inspect regularly.



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FLAT SEAT SWINGS

Hazard

Falling off and running in front and behind.

Possible Outcome / Worst Case

Bumps and falling off if standing on it without holding on possible broken limbs. Being knocked over by the swing causing at worst a skull fracture.

Risk Assess for Age / Ability

Low to medium

Is Risk Apparent and Controllable to children participating

Basically safe unless used incorrectly.

Reasonable and practical steps to avoid or reduce problem

Properly installed and safety surface installed.

Value of allowing the activity

Make children aware of their surroundings and use their judgement of distance and consequences of walking in front or behind a swing.

Decision

Inspect regularly.



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CRADLE SWING AND MOTHER CHILD SWING

Hazard

Running in front and behind and older children balancing on top of it.

Possible Outcome / Worst Case

Being knocked over or falling off by older children. Possible broken limbs or skull fracture.

Risk Assess for Age / Ability

Low to medium

Is Risk Apparent and Controllable to children participating

Basically safe unless used incorrectly.

Reasonable and practical steps to avoid or reduce problem

Properly installed and safety surface installed.

Value of allowing the activity

Make children aware of their surroundings and use their judgement of distance and consequences of walking in front or behind a swing.

Decision

Inspect regularly.



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BASKETBALL/NETBALL

Hazard

Running into the post or being hit by a ball from the net.

Possible Outcome / Worst Case

Bruising and worst case skull damage.

Risk Assess for Age / Ability

Low to medium for under 12's

Is Risk Apparent and Controllable to children participating

Basically safe unless behaving unreasonably.

Reasonable and practical steps to avoid or reduce problem

Professionally installed and safety surface.

Value of allowing the activity.

Children to be alert to their surroundings, good physical activity for teenagers and adults

Decision

Inspect regularly



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TABLE TENNIS TABLE

Hazard

Concrete table at head height.

Possible Outcome / Worst Case

Younger children walking/running into it and hitting their head, potential for causing a skull fracture.

Risk Assess for Age / Ability

Suitable for all except young children due to height of table.

Is Risk Apparent and Controllable to children participating

Yes for all except young children

Reasonable and practical steps to avoid or reduce problem

Plenty of clear space around the table

Value of allowing the activity

Good physical activity for every age including adults except the very young.

Decision

Inspect regularly



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MULTIPLAY CLIMBING FRAME

Hazard

Falling from the high elements, falling off the pole element, slide burn, foot caught in the rope climbing section.

Possible Outcome / Worst Case

Broken limbs, skull damage, sprained wrists sprained ankles, getting stuck inside the 'caged tube' section. Spinal or skull fracture.

Risk Assess for Age / Ability

Suitable for all children except toddlers with adult supervision. Over 12's should be able to assess the risks if incorrectly used.

Is Risk Apparent and Controllable to children participating

With proper supervision and parental training on risk assessment yes it is apparent and controllable.

Reasonable and practical steps to avoid or reduce problem

Professionally erected and safety matting installed.

Value of allowing the activity

Learning to assess risk and good physical activity.

Decision

Regularly inspect



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THE PAVILION

Hazard

The Pavilion comes under the responsibility of West Wycombe Estate and Downley Dynamos Football Club and is not the Parish Council's responsibility. There is the potential for vandalism and issues with the actual structure.

ADULT GYM EQUIPMENT

Hazard

Incorrect use of the equipment. Injury from falling. Injury from equipment failure. Medical emergency caused by over exertion. Vandalism. Noise pollution

Possible outcome/Worst Case

Heart attack, broken limb, torn muscles, trapped fingers, complaints of noise/nuisance.

Risk Assess for Age/Ability

Users of the equipment do so at their own risk. All equipment has usage guidance.

Signage indicates that no one under 1.4m should use the equipment

Equipment is designed to minimise risk and complies with current legislation.

The Parish Council is currently creating one comprehensive sign which would also indicate and demonstrate the height of people who can use the equipment safely.

Is Risk Apparent and Controllable to Children

No

Reasonable and practical steps to avoid or reduce problem

Signage with advice for users. Users are expected to be aware of their responsibilities for their activities in accordance with general common sense and expected appropriate use of the equipment. The equipment is overlooked by residents which would act as a deterrent for vandalism and inappropriate behaviour.

Contact details to report any issues are on the main signage as is the Postcode of the site.

Value of allowing the activity



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To improve the general physical and mental health of the adult members of the community.

Reviewed June 2023