**Ockbrook and Borrowash Parish Council – Deans Drive Play Park.**

**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 Play Area’s and Outdoor Gym in Draycott .

In addition to the government advice, we have also reviewed the report by the Association of Play Industries with guidelines for a reasonable approach to enable play areas to be re-opened

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| **Key Principle** | **Government Guidance** | **Assessment and mitigation actions** | **Conclusion**  |
| General Maintenance Issues following Lockdown | Ensure equipment is safe to use and that risks from damaged or defective equipment are addressed before opening. | Play ground inspections occur monthly. | Low risk |
| Social Distancing  | Put in place measures to support social distancing – 2m or 1m plus risk mitigations. Examples given include:* Limit number of users at any one time
* Booking system
* Advisory signage
* Create waiting areas with barriers
 | We do not have the manpower to “police” social distancing therefore the only mitigation is to produce signage.  | Remains High Risk |
| Cleaning and Hygiene | Clean high traffic touch points frequently. This includes:* All Play Equipment
* All outdoor gym equipment
* Seating Areas
* Refuse Bins
* Users to clean equipment before and after use
* Use of hand sanitiser and frequent hand washing

Where practicable, provide hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities at entry and exit points.  | It is not feasible for the council to clean high traffic touch points frequently and the risk would remain the same between each user. The only mitigation would be to produce signage asking users to clean hands and use sanitiser  | Remains high risk |
| Face Coverings | 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).  | Face coverings would be a potential hazard on play equipment. It will be parental choice to use face coverings. | Low risk |
| Additional Measures and Communicating with Parents | 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:* consumption of food or drink on play equipment or in the playground area is banned
* 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.
 | Signage – could only produce a4 laminated signs which would be easy to miss seeing.  | Medium risk |
| Considering Children with Additional Needs | Take into account the requirements of children with additional needs. | We will use pictures on our signage | Low risk |
| Keeping Staff Safe | Consider the risks staff may be exposed to and how these can be mitigated. Staff roles may include:* cleaning playground equipment/surrounding areas
 | Contractor to wash hands regularly when working in and around the play areas | Low risk |

**Risk Assessment undertaken by Sarah Kitchener (Clerk and RFO) 14th July 2020**

**JULY 2020**