

BILBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

Risk Assessment – Reopening the playpark and outdoor gym during Covid-19

The Government announced on the 26th June 2020 that playparks and outdoor gyms could be re-opened on 4 July 2020 providing they are “covid secure” It subsequently produced guidance offering “practical advice on how they can be reopened and managed effectively to enable their use while minimising the transmission risk of COVID-19”. The guidance is available at:

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 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”. Much of the guidance is impractical for the Parish to undertake as it only employs 5 part-time staff. (e.g. a booking or a queueing system)

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 following a member of the SSDC Environmental Health team and will be kept under regular review to include all government guidelines and requirements on the council. A copy of the policy will be given to all staff, Ditton Services, the District Council who empty one of the bins and Came & Company (the Parish Council insurance company). The playpark and outdoor gym were re-opened on the 10th of July 2020.

HAZARD	PERSONS AT RISK	CONTROL MEASURES	RISK (H/M/L)	RESPONSIBILITY
Risk of injury on equipment	Users of the equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All equipment to be checked the day before opening.• Weekly inspections to re-start.• Operative undertaking inspection to wear PPE which should be “double-bagged” before disposal.• Remind operative to ensure hands are washed after inspection.• Weekly inspection lists to be completed and filed in the Parish office.• The roundabout may be closed off as awaiting bearing replacement.	M	Operative Senior Operative Clerk
Lack of Social Distancing. The main route of Covid-19 transmission is through droplets exhaled or coughed by an infected person therefore social distancing is an effective way of reducing transmission of the virus.	Users of the equipment Parish Staff (clean/litter-pick/inspect the play park/gym equipment sites) Ditton Services (cut the grass). SSDC Staff (empty the bins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure play park is closed during litter picking/grass cutting/cleaning/inspections• Due to the nature of the equipment, signage to indicate that the use of equipment is limited to one household at a time.• Signage to remind of the current guidelines on socially distancing (2m or 1m plus) and to ask the users to come back later if the play park is busy.• Advice was taken from SSDC environmental health relating to the signage.	M	Operative Senior Operative Housekeeper Clerk Ditton Services

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HAZARD	PERSONS AT RISK	CONTROL MEASURES	RISK (H/M/L)	RESPONSIBILITY
<p>Infection from touching contaminated equipment.</p> <p>Although touching a surface or object contaminated with the virus and then touching one's face "is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads, it is still advisable to take precautions".</p>	<p>Users of the equipment</p> <p>Parish Staff</p> <p>Ditton Services</p> <p>SSDC Staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signage to state anyone showing signs of covid-19 should not use the equipment. Encourage vulnerable people to follow the Government Guidelines. Signage to advise users to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> wipe down equipment before and after use use hand sanitiser regularly not to touch face, eyes, nose or mouth Wash hands when they get home. Wear face masks Use the litter bins or take rubbish home Cover the mouth and nose with a tissue or when coughing or sneezing & put used tissues in the bin straight away No eating & Drinking on the playpark (on the picnic benches) Gates and frequently used equipment cleaned weekly with water, detergent and disposable cleaning cloths. Bins emptied weekday mornings. Staff undertaking cleaning/litter picking to wear PPE which should be "double-bagged" before disposal. Remind staff to ensure hands are washed after cleaning/litter-picking. 	M	<p>Operative</p> <p>Senior Operative</p> <p>Housekeeper</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Ditton Services</p>
<p>A person becoming unwell while using the equipment.</p>	<p>Users of the equipment</p> <p>Parish Staff</p> <p>Ditton Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a user becomes unwell whilst using the equipment, they must go home immediately and inform the Parish council. As soon as the Parish Council is informed that an infected person has used the equipment, the play park / outdoor gym is to be closed immediately. The next day a deep clean of the equipment will be undertaken by the housekeeper or an external cleaning agency 	L	<p>Senior Operative</p> <p>Housekeeper</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>Lack of information</p>	<p>Users of the equipment</p> <p>Parish Staff</p> <p>Ditton Services</p> <p>SSDC Staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance for users to be displayed on the Parish Website Staff & Ditton Services informed that the playpark and gym equipment will be re-opening. All staff to read this risk assessment. Copy of risk assessment sent to Ditton Services, SSDC & Came & Company Insurance brokers 	L	<p>Clerk</p>