Stilton Parish Council

Re-opening of Play Equipment

Risk Assessment for Barn Close Play Area, STILTON

On 4 January 2021, the Government announced a national lockdown for all of England. Under national lockdown, outdoor public playgrounds can remain open and "practical advice on how these can be reopened and managed effectively to enable their use while minimising the transmission risk of COVID-19" has been provided. 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 Barn Close in Stilton.

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.	General maintenance work required as highlighted in the RoSPA report has been addressed.	**RE-OPEN**
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	Signs to be put at the entrance stating maximum of one family group in the play area at any one time. Booking system is not feasible. 2 PVC signs have been purchased and mounted on the railings at the site, reminding users to socially distance.	**RE-OPEN**

Cleaning and Hygiene	Clean high traffic touch points frequently. This includes: • All Play Equipment • Seating Areas • Refuse Bins In addition, use signage to encourage: • 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.	The PVC signs to remind users to wash their hands. The Play Park has been closed for many months and recently cleaned so risk of Covid-19 on equipment is minimal at the moment. Not practical to clean the park frequently or provide hand sanitiser – will place emphasis on this across social media/on PC website when announcing re-opening. As play park for U8's, greater adult supervision in keeping users safe.	**RE-OPEN**
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 may be a hazard to children playing on the equipment so not feasible. Social distancing is possible whereby users are limited to one family group.	**RE-OPEN**
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	Responsible behaviour to be monitored and the site re-closed if not adhered to – the PVC signs to advise no food and rubbish to be placed in the bin.	**RE-OPEN**

	• 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.		
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 • managing queues of those waiting to use equipment • stewarding equipment to ensure users comply with rules made by the owner/operator	No staff on site, no requirement for these at this time. To be monitored.	**RE-OPEN**

Conclusions

THE PARISH COUNCIL FEELS CONFIDENT SUFFICIENT MEASURES CAN BE PUT IN PLACE TO MANAGE THE RISK OF COVID-19. FOLLOWING THE GENERAL MAINTENANCE OF THE PLAY PARK, ADULT SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN VISITING THE PARK, SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES AND OUTDOOR SITING OF THE FACILITY, THAT THEY ARE ABLE TO RE-OPEN THE PLAY PARK. SHOULD IT BECOME APPARENT THAT THE MEASURES DETAILED ABOVE ARE NOT BEING ADHERED TO, THE PARISH COUNCIL WOULD CLOSE THE PLAY PARK AGAIN.

Risk Assessment undertaken by Cllr Gilden and the Clerk and conclusions agreed by council at the PC meeting on 09/02/21.

February 2021