

## Slip End Parish Council

# Crawley Playground – Covid-19 Risk Assessment for Re-Opening of the Playground and Facilities



Assessment carried out by : Mrs Sarah Minnighan – Vice chairman, Slip End Parish Council

Mr Andrew Prothero of Country Gardens – Approved Maintenance Contractor for the Playground

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Assessment carried out on : 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020

The Government announced that Playgrounds can re-open on 4th July 2020 if the operator feels it safe to do so and should be ‘reopened and managed effectively to enable their use while minimising the transmission risk of COVID-19’. Playground operators are required to carry out an appropriate Covid-19 risk assessment. Slip End Parish Councils Risk Assessment considers the Government Guidance and has assessed whether or not practical arrangements can be introduced to comply with the guidance and reopen safely.

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>

Key Principle	Requirements	Assessment	Conclusion
General Maintenance	Ensure equipment is disinfected and safe to use and that risks from damaged or defective equipment are addressed before opening	Note: The Crawley Playground equipment is only 12 months old. ROSPA visited site May 2020 and carried out an annual safety inspection. Non-urgent issues were raised.	All issues raised by ROSPA were attended to in late May 2020. Kompan (installers) made a site visit and confirmed the works were carried out correctly by our Approved Playground Contractor (Country Gardens). ROSPA advised.

	Grassed areas are maintained	Approved Playground Contractor (Country Gardens) was instructed to carry out repairs as recommended in report Paul Gurney to continue to attend site	Country Gardens to resume weekly health and safety checks.  Paul Gurney resumed grass cutting contract and will continue once the playground reopens
Social Distancing	Put in place measures to support social distancing – 2m preferably or 1m plus risk mitigations, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit number of users at any one time</li> <li>• Booking system</li> <li>• Advisory signage</li> <li>• Create waiting areas with barriers</li> </ul>	Fit signage clearly marking benches and youth shelter seating to show 1m or 2m distancing rules and advise users: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One household per piece of equipment, one family member per child</li> <li>• Unachievable</li> <li>• To be installed</li> <li>• Unachievable</li> </ul>	Order and install signage by 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2020
Cleaning and Hygiene	Clean high traffic 'touch' points frequently. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both Entry Gates</li> <li>• All Play Equipment</li> <li>• All Gym Equipment</li> <li>• Seating Areas</li> <li>• Refuse Bins</li> </ul>	Risks can be reduced on outdoor surfaces subject to UV light and/or rain, but the virus could survive long enough on frequently used/touched outdoor surfaces and facilitate transmission. Playground Contractor to fully disinfect and clean all equipment and all high traffic points prior to opening. Playground Contractor to disinfect same areas on weekly checks	Approved Playground Contractor to carry out full disinfection and cleaning regime immediately prior to 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2020. Cleaning regime attached in Appendix A.

<p>Cleaning and Hygiene cont/..</p>	<p>In addition, use signage to encourage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Users to clean equipment before, during and after use</li> <li>• Use of hand sanitiser and frequent hand washing</li> </ul> <p>Where practicable, provide hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities at entry and exit points</p> <p>Bins emptied regularly</p>	<p>Signage to be installed requesting users to bring and use own cleaning equipment and hand sanitiser.</p> <p>Hand sanitising points and hand washing facilities are not available, signage to encourage users to bring their own</p> <p>Approved Playground Contractor to empty bins more regularly</p>	<p>Order and install signage by 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020</p> <p>Order and install signage by 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020</p> <p>Bins to be emptied weekly or more often if the Approved Playground Contactor deems it necessary. Wheelie Glean (third party approved contractor) to disinfect the bin cavities every 4 weeks until the end of 2020.</p>
<p>Face Coverings</p>	<p>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).</p>	<p>Advise users</p> <p>Parish Council recognises that face coverings could be a safety risk if caught on equipment</p>	<p>Order and install signage by 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020</p>
<p>Additional Measures and Communicating with Parents</p>	<p>Promote responsible behaviour by children, parents, carers and</p>	<p>Advise all users</p>	<p>Order and install signage by 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020</p>

	<p>guardians. For example signs should make clear that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• consumption of food or drink on play equipment or in the playground area is banned</li> <li>• parents, guardians or carers should dispose of all litter properly in litter bins</li> <li>• Children should be reminded not to put their mouths to the equipment or their hands to their mouths</li> </ul>		
Considering Children with Additional Needs	Consider the requirements of children with additional needs	Parental supervision advised in signage	Order and install signage by 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2020
Keeping Playground Contractors Safe	<p>Consider the risks contractors may be exposed to and how these can be mitigated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cleaning all playground/youth shelter/gym equipment</li> <li>• emptying bins</li> <li>• cleaning entrance/exit gates</li> <li>• being in the playground whilst equipment is being used by the public</li> <li>• steward the use of all equipment</li> </ul>	<p>Contractors are aware of the risks and to reduce the risk they will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear appropriate PPE</li> <li>• Wear appropriate PPE</li> <li>• Wear appropriate PPE</li> <li>• contractors should adhere to social distancing guidelines or return at a quieter time</li> <li>• Impracticable</li> </ul>	<p>Approved Playground Contractors will wear PPE where applicable. They will enter the area if appropriate to do so and return at another time if the area is too busy</p>

**Appendix A – Weekly Cleaning Regime for Crawley Playground – undertaken by Country Gardens as Approved Playground Contractor**

Area	Required Cleaning	Date	By	Signed
Entrance/Exit Gate Markyate Road	Handle, opening mechanism			
Entrance/Exit Gate Village Hall Car Park	Handle			
Benches x 3	Seating area Bench back			
Bins x 3	In and around bin opening Top and sides			
Youth Shelter	Seating			
Gym Equipment	All handles Signage			
Swings	Chains Seats Frame			
Disabled Swing	Chains Seat and 'touch' points Frame			
Cradle Swing	Cords Seat Frame			
Supernova	Whole item			
Tipi Carousel	Handlebars Touch points			
Twin Ring Carousal	Both rings/touch points			
Spinner Bowl	Touch points			
Red Playhouse	All sides, openings, slide edges			
Seesaw & Springer Buggy	Handlebars 'touch' points			
Trampoline	Safety inspection only – no areas to 'clean'			

Cableway	Frames on platforms Cableway seats and cords – 'touchpoints'			
Tower unit with Bridge and Overhead ladders	'touch' points Handlebars Steps Slide edges			