

## School Lane Play Park Coningsby Town Council

### 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 opening up the School Lane play park.

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.	All equipment in good order Issues arising from mis use of Tunnel	Good to open Recommendation to Council to alter/close access to tunnel
Social Distancing	Put in place measures to support social distancing – 2m or 1m plus risk mitigations. Examples given include: <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>	Multiple signs fixed on equipment fences and seats inside and outside the area	Users use the park at their own risk Council have given clear instruction on social distancing
Cleaning and Hygiene	Clean high traffic touch points frequently. This includes:	All cleaned prior to opening	Daily checks in place

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Play Equipment</li> <li>• Seating Areas</li> <li>• Refuse Bins</li> </ul> <p>In addition, use signage to encourage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Users to clean equipment before 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</p> <p>Signage provided asking users to bring their own hand sanitiser if required, also to check that the equipment is clean and clear for use</p>	<p>Bins will be emptied into the large industrial bin as required</p> <p>Council staff provided with cleaning wipes, gloves, masks and sanitiser for their own use</p> <p>Visitors encouraged to use their own cleaning materials</p>
Face Coverings	<p>If possible, a face covering should be worn in enclosed public spaces where social distancing is not possible and where the public may come into contact with people they do not normally meet.</p>	<p>Not required</p>	<p>Public can use face masks if they feel the need, not a requirement for using the play park.</p>
Additional Measures and Communicating with Parents	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<p>Play area bins</p> <p>Signage asking everyone to use the bins or take their litter home.</p>	<p>Bins will be emptied into the large industrial bin as required</p>
Considering Children with Additional Needs	<p>Take into account the requirements of children with additional needs.</p>	<p>No additional requirements</p>	<p>No action taken</p>

Keeping Staff Safe	Consider the risks staff may be exposed to and how these can be mitigated. Staff roles may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cleaning playground equipment/surrounding areas</li> </ul>	All risks assessed the cleaning will be carried out by the play park CT daily reporting back to the clerk as required.  Supplies of cleaning equipment available on demand from office.	Clerk will visit and check at intervals  Caretaker has been supplied with safety equipment and additional cleaning materials
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### Conclusions

**The School Lane Play Area is open from Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July and may be used at visitors' own risk – signage is clear on this.**

**Insurance company have been contacted and confirmed that Council make additional visits and clear signage covering the fact that personal/parental responsibility is the key driver in getting play area reopened safely.**

**With all the above in place persons if unfortunate enough to contract the virus would find it very difficult to prove it developed from use of the Council's play park.**

**WPS Insurers cannot give specific advice but have been informed of this risk assessment and opening date.**

**Risk Assessments undertaken by Cllr Donnellan the Clerk and Play park CT/Assistant Clerk conclusions agreed by all councillors.**

**July 2020**