**MASHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**Risk Assessment**

**Re-opening Westholme Court Play Area & MUGA Relating to Covid19**

In early 2020 Covid 19 emerged as a world wide threat to human health. It was classified as a Pandemic by WHO. Masham Parish Council (MPC) closed its play areas, Westholme Court Play Area and the MUGA, in March 2020. The government has announced that play areas can open from 4 July providing that adequate measures are in place.

This risk assessment covers the reasonably practicable measures we will put in place to protect the public. It has been written in using the Government guidance and advice from the Associated Play Industry (API). It will, to some extent, be dependant on public co-operation. Where this is not forthcoming, the controls must be reviewed.

### **Assessment completed by: Masham Parish Council**

### **Date of risk assessment: 3 July 2020 Review Period:** 1 month

| **What are the hazards?** | **Who might be harmed, and how?** | **What are you already doing** | **Do you need to do anything else to control this risk?** | **Action by who?** | **Action by when?** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Play Area users and MPC/ContractorsSpreading or Contracting Covid19. | Play Area users and MPC/ContractorsContamination and infection through common touch points. | * Anyone with symptoms should not use childrens play areas.
* Anyone classed as clinically extremely vulnerable (Shielding) should not use childrens play areas.
* Ensure MPC/Contractors have read and understood the existing risk assessments from MPC and have completed any relevant training.
* Ensure all guidance and information is available and on display and followed as outlined below.
 | Inform MPC/Contractors and the public of the controls in place. Continue to monitor Government guidance for updates. | Clerk/Councillors | 14 July 2020Review at 3rd August monthly meeting |
| Managing Safe Access and Use - within enclosed play spaces  | Play Area users and MPC/Contractors  | * Provide public information (signage) to outline access and use of enclosed spaces which may include:
* 2m social distancing at all times
* Own provision for sanitising/washing hands and common touch points where possible before and after use in accordance with Government Guidance.
* Consider the amount of time within the play area to allow any queue to have their turn.
* Maximum number of users within play space.
 | * Where possible only one guardian/parent safeguarding young children/or young people with additional needs in using the equipment.
* Any operational routes (one way systems) around the equipment and entrance/exits.
* High use play areas to have entry and exit systems.
 | Clerk/Councillors | 14 July 2020Review at 3rd August monthly meeting |
| Safe queuing into play space | Play Area users Contamination and infection | Provide signage re adhering to social distancing protocols i.e. keep 2 metres apart.Identify where one-way access points could work. | Distancing example installed on the floor for safe queuing system into a play space. | Clerk/Councillors | 14 July 2020Review at 3rd August monthly meeting |
| Internal Distancing Measures | Play Area users and MPC/ContractorsContamination and infection | Close off or lock any equipment that would mean not maintaining a 2 metre distance whilst in use.  | Provide signage which clearly indicates what equipment is open and closed within the play/gym space. | Clerk/Councillors | 14 July 2020Review at 3rd August monthly meeting |
| Internal benches | Play Area users Contamination and infection  | Benches and picnic benches to be assessed whether they are too close. Individual benches to be placed out of service with tape where social distancing cannot be implemented. | Consider making gates one-way to prevent pinch points. | Clerk/Councillors | 14 July 2020Review at 3rd August monthly meeting |
| Food and drink | Play Area usersContamination and infection | Advise that no food or drink to be consumed within play space. | Review and revise based on usage. | Clerk/Councillors | 14 July 2020Review at 3rd August monthly meeting |
| Lack of good hand hygene | Play Area users and MPC/Contractors | Provide instructions on best practice for hand washing/sanitising (display guidelines) – and as per API, communicate through signage that resposibility sits with parents to bring wipes / sanitiser for their themselves / children. | Where available ensure the provision of hand washing, hand towels/hand drying.  | Clerk/Councillors | 14 July 2020Review at 3rd August monthly meeting |
| Undetected faults, hazards and vandalism | Play Area users and MPC/Contractors | Play areas have not been inspected for 3 months.Thoroughly inspect and maintain each playground before reopening to remove hazards and reduce the risk. | Continue to inspect on a weekly/fortnightly basis as usual.  | Clerk/Councillors | 14 July 2020Review at 3rd August monthly meeting |
| Unknown hazards hidden in long grass | Play Area users and MPC/Contractors | Check and cut the grass approaching play areas. | Additional grass cutting and clearing requested | Clerk/Councillors | 14 July 2020Review at 3rd August monthly meeting |
| Slips and trips on grass cuttings | Play Area users and MPC/Contractors | Consider contractor blowing off grass cuttings whilst on site. | Additional grass cutting and clearing requested | Clerk/Councillors | 14 July 2020 |
| Operational Risks | Play Area users and MPC/Contractors | * Consider additional litter clearance/removals.

Availability of equipment (some closed off) may require a considered reactive approach to meet the evolving needs of the COVID-19 situation, such as;* Further equipment being made available (unlocking and reinstating)
* Possible return to lockdown (could be localised) at short notice.
 |  | Clerk/Councillors | Review at 3rd August monthly meeting |
| Too many visitors in the play area at once | Play Area users and MPC/ContractorsContamination and infection whilst passing or queuing for equipment. | * Reminding about social distancing. 2 metres
* Encourage people to come back later if the playground is busy.
* Limit visits to 45 minutes
* Max no. of persons in each play space
 | Monitor and consider setting a maximum number of people in the in each play area to allow safe social distancing.If overcrowding becomes an issue, consider temporary closure or limit access to play area | Clerk/Councillors | 14 July 2020Review at 3rd August monthly meeting |
| Communication overview |  | Using signs and posters: * to promote and remind users, parents, guardians and carers of the need for social distancing.
* To encourage parents to bring hand sanitiser gel or wipes to clean their children’s hands
* to encourage hand hygiene and washing/sanitising hands more often than usual, for 20 seconds using soap and water or approved gel and foam sanitiser, particularly at the beginning and end of play
* to remind visitors to keep their visits to 45 minutes.
* Maximum visitors per play area.
* to promote cleaning of equipment by users, particularly where there are clear touch points such as swing rockers, see saws, machine handles or exercise bars.
* to advise users not to touch their faces, and to cough or sneeze into a tissue or arm when a tissue is not available
* to remind adults and children not to put their mouths on equipment or their hands in their mouths
 |  | Clerk/Councillors | 14 July 2020Review at 3rd August monthly meeting |