

Stilton Parish Council

Re-opening of Play Equipment/skate park

Risk Assessment for the SKATE PARK, STILTON

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 the Barn Close and Skate park 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 recent RoSPA report.	REMAIN CLOSED
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">• Limit number of users at any one time• Booking system• Advisory signage• Create waiting areas with barriers	Not possible to limit users at any one time without having a member of staff on site (no staff available given part-time hours and other responsibilities.) Booking system – not possible. Advisory signage – could be done. Waiting areas could be provided but without staff, may not be used correctly.	REMAIN CLOSED
Cleaning and Hygiene	Clean high traffic touch points frequently. This includes:	No staff available to clean high touch points frequently. Would be	REMAIN CLOSED

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Play Equipment • Seating Areas • Refuse Bins <p>In addition, use signage to encourage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users to clean equipment before and after use • Use of hand sanitiser and frequent hand washing <p>Where practicable, provide hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities at entry and exit points.</p>	time intensive as many areas to clean, often at height. No PC funds available to provide hand sanitiser at entry/exit points (or ensure that it remains in place for effective use.)	
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).	No staff available to enforce and face coverings may be a hazard to children playing on the equipment.	REMAIN CLOSED
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consumption of food or drink on play equipment or in the playground area is banned • parents, guardians or carers should dispose of all litter 	Although signs could be placed in the skate park advising responsible behaviour, risks to users would be high due to lack of staff on site to ensure no food is consumed on site and all litter is placed in the bin (by the owner of the litter.)	REMAIN CLOSED

	including any used protective wear such as face coverings or gloves properly in litter bins, taking it home where a bin is not provided.		
Considering Children with Additional Needs	Take into account the requirements of children with additional needs.	Unable to fully address this with the tools available.	REMAIN CLOSED
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"> • 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 available to take on these roles.	REMAIN CLOSED

Conclusions

THE PARISH COUNCIL IS NOT IN A POSITION TO PUT IN PLACE SUFFICIENT MEASURES TO MANAGE THE RISK OF COVID-19 WHICH THEREFORE COULD CONSTITUTE A BREACH OF HEALTH AND SAFETY LAW AND WILL THEREFORE KEEP THE SKATE PARK CLOSED PENDING AN UPDATE ON GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE AND THE CARRYING OUT OF GERERAL MAINTENANCE.

Risk Assessments undertaken by Cllr Bull, Pavilion Administrator and the Clerk and conclusions agreed by all councillors.

June 2020