

PLAY POLICY RISK/BENEFIT ANNUAL ASSESSMENT

“How well do the sites provide the play opportunities our Parish Council aims to offer, while managing the risks?”

PLAY AREA : RECREATION GROUND

ISSUE	COMMENTARY
Are there regular inspections for litter hazards?	Yes; Litter picker visits three times per week during periods of high use and twice weekly during periods of low use. Litter picked and bins emptied.
Are there regular inspections for wear & tear or damage?	Yes; Inspections every week by council asset inspector staff, any points arising are actioned. Litter picker is also a qualified asset inspector, so would notice anything obviously amiss when visiting on the other 2 times each week. Staff are suitably trained via RoSPA playground inspection training course (1 x new members training pending)
Has there been an annual safety inspection by accredited supplier?	Yes: Wicksteed carried out the annual independent safety inspection in June. Some minor points raised which have been referred to Huck as the space is within the 12-month guarantee period.
Is the site well used?	Yes: the new play space has seen very heavy footfall with the play area constantly busy in out-of-school hours, weekends, school holidays and periods of covid lockdown. Usage greatly increased since the installation of the new equipment.
Is the site safe and accessible?	Yes; Easy access in centre of village, flat entrances. New concrete footpath partially installed, which will enable wheelchair access from the car park to the play space. Path will be completed with the installation of the skate park.
Is there car parking nearby, with appropriate surface and flat access?	Yes, Memorial Hall car park. Tarmac. Some dedicated disabled bays. Flat access from car park to site, partially grassed and partially paved. Parking provision is being extended via a new, adjacent car park currently being installed by Nicholas King Homes (eta 2021).
Are there areas for young people to play and socialise?	Yes; the new play space includes a wide variety of play equipment for all ages including (a) some with spaces to socialise such as the Birds Nest Tree and Nest Carousel (b) and some items where young people can share experiences by playing together such as the Viking Swinger, Cantilever Swing & Climbing Whirl. There are also several benches and picnic tables provided. The wider recreation ground also houses benches, open space and cricket practice nets.
Does the site promote inclusion and access for disadvantaged and disabled children?	Yes: Prior to commissioning the new play space, the parish council consulted with families of disabled children in the community to determine the features that would most enhance their child's use of the play space and their ability to integrate and socialise with able bodied friends and family. The site development has been assessed against the RoSPA Access Audit and Disability Act requirements. Play England urge developers to “imagine a play space where disabled and non-disabled children play together” and we have strived to achieve this within our plan which fully endorses the values and

	<p>principals of inclusive play. It also recognises that accessible play space is not just about getting the right fixed equipment, but also the design of the space and how it enables people to use it.</p> <p>The design is formulated on an inclusive basis, allowing able and disabled bodied children to play and socialise together. A wide range of DDA compliant equipment has been incorporated into the design, predominantly located close to the central hard surfaced picnic area for easy access. This includes equipment to cover a wide range of play experiences such as rocking, sliding, bouncing, swinging and spinning.</p> <p>Children are also stimulated through colour, movement, tactile elements and varying levels of challenge. When assessing against this criteria, RoSPA say "Good to see the play equipment is obviously suitable for children with "special needs" and that it can be played with (and enjoyed) by all children without any stigma or embarrassment."</p> <p>DDA compliant benches with backs and arms have been incorporated into the design, as has firm surfacing and obvious access points/routes.</p> <p>Bi-annual disability consultation with residents is undertaken.</p>
<p>Does the cost/availability of transport provide a barrier to access?</p>	<p>No. The site is freely available to all residents and accessible via a number of footpath links.</p>
<p>Do the recreational opportunities reflect the needs and interests of the community?</p>	<p>Redevelopment of this site has been a long term project.</p> <p>The parish council purchased the plot of Leisure Land from Pitstone Parish Charity in 2019/20, which has enabled the leisure development at this site and secured its future use for leisure and recreation. The council continues to work on the upgrade of this location from a LEAP (Local Equipped Area of Play) to a NEAP (Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play). The first element of this project was the installation of the replacement play space completed during 2020/21.</p> <p>Children need to experience risk, challenge and excitement in their play so that they can "stretch and challenge themselves in every way" (Play England). To achieve this aim, a range of equipment to reflect all sizes, abilities and functions has been provided. Play experiences include role play, spinning, sliding, climbing, bouncing, rocking, gliding, balance, traversing, crawling and natural play. Challenging, stimulating and fun items of equipment have been included to appeal to older children for which the previous playground offered no facilities at all. The height (Cheops pyramid is 5.6m tall), speed (zip wire) and movement (climbing whirl) of some of this equipment, combined with its location on site, will allow users to play high alongside the tree canopies, experience new sensations and push their abilities in order to grow in confidence. The RoSPA evaluation reported "Good to see such a wide range of equipment, play values and play challenges for all ages and abilities. The new play space certainly has the "WOW" factor."</p> <p>The Play England principle asks developers to "imagine a play space where children of all ages play together", where the boundaries are set by the users themselves rather than being imposed upon. The new design is a fully integrated area that will aid the child's progression, confidence building and motor</p>

	<p>skill development rather than restricting the play experience dependant on age or ability. RoSPA comments in relation to this matter are “Excellent. Good to see.” A central picnic area with hard surface has been provided, along with other seating/picnic facilities to provide social areas for parents and carers to meet whilst their children play freely and safely. RoSPA concur saying “Excellent idea to provide a focal point and good seating area.” This area will be illuminated at the request of Thames Valley Police.</p> <p>A family inclusive multi-use games area for basketball, football, netball and with an activity panel to extend appeal to other family users is being installed by Nicholas King Homes in 2021 on parish council owned land and will eventually transfer to the parish council.</p> <p>The parish council has commenced procurement of a concrete wheeled sport park, which will be located between the ball court and play space. This will complete the upgrade of the LEAP to NEAP providing a range of facilities for all ages and enabling families to all play together at the same site.</p> <p>Outdoor exercise equipment/trim trail may be considered once the three major areas are installed.</p> <p>The wider recreation ground includes a senior football pitch and cricket pitch, where the council works with the associated sports clubs to ensure the grounds meet their requirements.</p>
<p>Is the value to the community of this space maximised?</p>	<p>The current space is very tightly constrained with; children’s play, areas to socialise, informal sports areas, organised football and cricket training/matches.</p> <p>The purchase of the additional land enabled the replacement play space and will also enable the skate park. By working with Nicholas King Homes, we have been able to secure replacement car parking and the installation of the ball court, further expanding the leisure provision.</p>
<p>Are there any procurement requirements for this site?</p>	<p>Multi use ball court being installed by Nicholas King Homes.</p> <p>The Parish Council is currently part way through the tender process for a concrete skate park (eta end 2021).</p> <p>Further site development to be determined once these 3 major installations are complete.</p> <p>I&PUCC continue to work with the parish council to replace the existing single cricket practice net which has fallen into disrepair, with a new double lane net which would be open to the community. Funding has been identified and supported via approval from Buckinghamshire Council for a release of S106 grant funding.</p>

<p>Has there been any improvement to the site during the year?</p>	<p>All previous play equipment removed and new play space installed. New equipment includes: Viking Swing, Climbing Whirl, Cableway, Fortuna Play Course, DDA Wide Embankment Slide, DDA Sunken Trampoline, DDA Buggy Springer, DDA Bike Springer, Toddler Swings, Nest Carousel, Birds Nest Tree, DDA Cantilever Swing, Cheops Maxi Pyramid with Slide and Junior Swings. New seating and picnic tables.</p> <p>Multi use games area partially completed by Nicholas King Homes.</p> <p>Concrete access path partially installed and will be completed at the same time as the skate park is installed.</p> <p>Nicholas King Homes provided additional footpath access through from their residential development and the wider Castlemead estate.</p>
<p>Any areas identified for improvement?</p>	<p>See above redevelopment plans</p>
<p>Insurance</p>	<p>The zip wire and high climbing cheops pyramid result in additional ongoing insurance requirements for the parish council.</p>

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PLAY AREA : WINDSOR ROAD

ISSUE	COMMENTARY
Are there regular inspections for litter hazards?	Yes; Council employed litter picker attends weekly or more frequently if required during periods of high use, to pick litter and empty bins.
Are there regular inspections for wear & tear or damage?	Yes; Council employed staff carry out asset inspections every week, any points arising are actioned. Staff are suitably trained via RoSPA playground inspection training course (1 x new members training pending). Litter picker is also a qualified asset inspector, so would notice anything obviously amiss when visiting at other times each week.
Has there been an annual safety inspection by accredited supplier?	Yes, by Wicksteed in June. Swing joint issue raised with Creative Play (installer). Contractor appointed for minor works to remove weeds from edges of wet pour etc.
Is the site well used?	Yes; often occupied, especially by younger children.
Is the site safe and accessible?	Yes; Easy pedestrian access in centre of Castlemead estate, flat entrances, good visibility and overlooked by residential properties. Interior mainly hard surfaces – soft play or macadam – allowing easy access between equipment. Grassed area at side.
Is there car parking nearby, with appropriate surface and flat access?	On road parking only, with tarmac footpaths to play space. Dedicated cycle path and two footpaths. Designed for use by local residents who tend to walk, scoot, cycle etc to the park.
Are there areas for young people to play and socialise?	Yes; Play equipment, benches and picnic tables plus grass area. Neighbouring grass site for informal sports etc owned & managed by Buckinghamshire Council.
Does the site promote the inclusion and access for disadvantaged and disabled children?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Features multi-purpose equipment with slide, springers and cradle seat swings that can be enjoyed by majority of children. • Site fully accessible. • Bi-annual disability consultation with residents
Does the cost/availability of transport provide a barrier to access?	No. Open access. Good foot & cycle path network access.
Do the recreational opportunities reflect the needs and interests of the community?	This is a small local area of play predominantly designed for use by young children resident in the Castlemead estate. There is a limited amount of equipment (focusing mainly on swinging, sliding and rocking) and therefore limited stretch of experience, but equipment choice offers different experiences to the other Castlemead play area in Hever Close.
Is the value to the community of this space maximised?	Yes. Given the size of the area the space includes children’s play, informal/natural play on hill area, areas to socialise and informal sports areas
Are there any procurement requirements for this site?	Buckinghamshire Council own the thermoplastic alphabet snake and hopscotch grid located in the seating area immediately outside this play space. BC have stated that they will not be replacing the faded/peeled decals but would permit the parish council to do this. Local consultation showed that these features were valued by local residents and the parish council has resolved to undertake this work. Currently seeking suitable contractors.

Has there been any improvement to the site during the year?	Both swing units were replaced with new wooden swings supplied by Creative Play following a frame failure in the original metal flat seat swing unit. The toddler swings were replaced at the same time as they were of the same age, even though no faults had been identified.
Any areas identified for improvement?	Currently seeking suitable contractors for thermoplastic graphics for hopscotch and alphabet snake. The parish council has also started to accrue funds towards further replacement equipment as/when needed.

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PLAY AREA : HEVER CLOSE

ISSUE	COMMENTARY
Are there regular inspections for litter hazards?	Yes; Council employed litter picker attends weekly or more frequently if required during periods of high use, to pick litter and empty bins.
Are there regular inspections for wear & tear or damage?	Yes; Council employed staff carry out asset inspections every week, any points arising are actioned. Staff are suitably trained via RoSPA playground inspection training course (1 x new members training pending). Litter picker is also a qualified asset inspector, so would notice anything obviously amiss when visiting at other times each week.
Has there been an annual safety inspection by accredited supplier?	Yes, by Wicksteed in June. Contractor appointed for minor works to remove weeds from edges of wet pour & tighten springs etc.
Is the site well used?	Yes; often occupied, but less well known than other sites and predominantly used by children from Castlemead due to location.
Is the site safe and accessible?	Yes; Situated at end of Castlemead estate, flat entrances, good visibility and overlooked by residential properties. Interior entirely hard surfaces between equipment – soft play or macadam – allowing easy access between equipment. Benches have high backs. Grassed kick about area at side with open access park goal (NB this part of the site is only accessible via the grassy bank)
Is there car parking nearby, with appropriate surface and flat access?	On road parking only, with tarmac footpaths to play space. Designed for use by local residents who tend to walk, scoot, cycle etc to the park.
Are there areas for young people to play and socialise?	Yes; Play equipment and benches. Neighbouring grass site for informal sports etc. Neighbouring woodland walk & woodland for natural play opportunities.
Does the site promote the inclusion and access for disadvantaged and disabled children?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Features multi-purpose equipment with roundabout and springers that can be enjoyed by majority of children. • The enclosed area of the site is fully accessible. • Bi-annual disability consultation with residents
Does the cost/availability of transport provide a barrier to access?	No. Accessible by foot & cycle path.
Do the recreational opportunities reflect the needs and interests of the community?	This is a small local area of play predominantly designed for use by young children resident in the Castlemead estate. There is a limited amount of equipment and therefore limited stretch of experience, but equipment choice offers different experiences to the other Castlemead play area in Windsor Road (focusing mainly on climbing, balancing and rotating).
Is the value to the community of this space maximised?	Yes; children's play, informal/natural play, areas to socialise and informal sports areas
Are there any procurement requirements for this site?	Not at present.
Has there been any improvement to the site during the year?	No, just general maintenance.

Any areas identified for improvement?	BC/TW no longer plan to install improved path to secondary gate off woodland walk as part of transfer of Phase III open space as DDA compliant as is.
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Bellway have installed a children's play area in the Tun Furlong development. This is due to be maintained by Bellway for a period of 24 months before transferring to the parish council.

This risk/benefit assessment of the three play spaces managed by the parish council was undertaken and approved at the following meeting:

Signed :*D Nicholls*..... Date:24/6/21..... Minute Ref:103/21.3.....

With the following amendments required: