

# **BARNSTON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **RE-OPENING OF PLAY AREAS RISK ASSESSMENT**

The Government recently announced that Play Areas & Outdoor Gyms 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-managingplaygrounds-and-outdoor-gyms>

Risk assessment for the re-opening of the play areas at Watts Close and Chelmsford Road, Barnston.

<b>Key Principle</b>	<b>Government Guidance</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>
General Maintenance Issues following Lockdown	Ensure equipment is safe to use and that risks from damaged or defective equipment are addressed before opening.	The equipment will all be checked prior to re-opening but as it is checked regularly, there should be no defects.	There are no general maintenance issues. Weekly maintenance checks are in progress as routine maintenance.
Social Distancing	Put in place measures to support social distancing – 2m or 1m plus risk mitigations.	The equipment is well spaced and outdoors.	Display appropriate signage.
Cleaning and Hygiene	Clean high traffic touch points frequently. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All Play Equipment</li><li>• Seating Areas</li><li>• Refuse Bins</li></ul> In addition, use signage to encourage: <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> Where practicable, provide hand sanitiser.	The advisory signage will cover these points. Providing hand washing facilities is not an option due to the locations of the play areas.	The signage would minimise risk of liability.

Face coverings	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.	Both play areas are located in external settings.	It is for the individual to decide whether a face covering is necessary.
Additional Measures and Communicating with Parents.	Promote responsible behaviour by children, parents, carers and guardians.	The provision of signage in the play areas and notices on the Parish Council website should provide sufficient communication with potential users.	The steps proposed would mitigate the risks significantly.
Considering Children with Additional Needs	Take into account the requirements of children with additional needs.	These are risks which can only be assessed by carers/parents or guardians.	The Parish Council are not providers of specialist services for children with additional needs and any risk assessment must be undertaken by carers.
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>	Risks have been assessed.	This has been addressed with the Covid-19 Health & Safety Risk Assessment in re-opening facilities

Risk Assessments undertaken by the Clerk and will be published on the Parish Council Website.

2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020