

Playground Report – November 2019

A site visit was completed on 10/10/19 by Chairman Cllr I Bowring, Cllr P Clark and Clerk, Jo Bullingham.

They reviewed the Annual Playground Inspection report (completed by the play inspection company on the 15th August 2019) and also considered all of the issues raised during weekly playground inspections completed by Cllr Bowring, Cllr Clark and Clerk, Jo Bullingham

Based on recommendations, Cllrs agreed to obtain quotes to:

1. Replace matting at the bottom of the silver slide, underneath the two swings and the exit from the toddler bit in to the main play area. (Limebridge agreed previously that they would replace the matting under the bird's nest swing free of charge.
2. Clear the algae/moss off the playdale frame and sand any rough edges
3. Sand the rough edge on the plank of wood with the stepping stones running along it
4. Lift tree canopy to ensure a minimum clearance of 2.0m from equipment (above the bird's nest swing)
5. Turf around the two benches
6. Add fence at the top left boundary
7. Repair fence that leads on to Huff Cap car park

Clerk met with John Stedman, Limebridge Rural Services on 22/10/19 to discuss work required:

The following quote was received:

“We offer to carry out all the works you have listed below and supply all necessary goods and materials”

Additional information

1, The matting under the Birds Nest swing is in perfect condition and does not require replacing, the corner which was damaged by our mower was reinstated and no further attention is required

2, We will pressure wash the Playdale frame to remove all surface debris and fill some sizable cracks in the main timbers with a suitable wood filler to prevent any pinch points
4 The canopy lift to the Oak Tree will be carried out as required and ensure the canopy is aesthetically balanced

5 The entire area under the benches will be turfed with 4 Sq, yards under each bench

6 we will clear the overburden of bushes and install 2 x 5ft X 6ft interwoven fence panels into the existing concrete posts.

7 missing fence sections will be reinstated with new chestnut fencing to match the existing fence

- Chairman to cut brambles close to Nightingale Close entrance during one of his playground inspections

- Clerk to contact Kompan re Birds nest swing – the secondary safety chain is twisting around the main suspension. (Clerk emailed on 13/11/19)

Reply rec'd: Hi Jo, this sounds like a simple case of getting someone locally to untwist the swing seat to release the twisted chain above. Unfortunately, this can be common place for swings generally but as there is the additional safety chain to the Birds Nest swing the two chains can get twisted together and with a heavy load of kids causing excessive pressure on the shackles. When I'm next passing, I can take a look just in case there has been damage done to the D shackles that connect the safety chain. Thanks, Rob Heard, Area Manager
KOMPAN UK

Update 27/11/19 – Cllr Clark has now resolved this and Kompan have been out to check it is all ok.

The following items need monitoring:

- Two swings – monitor the shackles, consider treating and repainting the item due to surface corrosion. Agreed that this should wait until 2020/21 financial year as one of the less urgent tasks. Will monitor shackles and replace before this time if required.
- Playdale – Activity Trail – Report suggested providing a suitable impact attenuating surface extending 1950mm from the equipment. Agreed that this is not a priority at the moment and no action to be taken at this time.
- Playdale – Activity Trail – Monitor the splits in the timber running through fixing points that may create instability in the structure
- Playdale – Activity Trail – CLOSELY monitor the shackles
- Playdale – Activity Trail – There are bolt cap covers missing or damaged on the item (the top beam). Cllr Clark will replace these.
- RSS – Multiplay – Slightly loose in its foundations. Monitor for any further deterioration at weekly playground checks.
- RSS – Multiplay – There is surface corrosion present on this item and underneath the slide, the item has exposed edges and corners which do not adhere to BS EN 1176 requirements. Agreed that that this should wait until 2020/21 financial year as one of the less urgent tasks

Other

- At this time, it was decided that it was not necessary to take action on the lack of official boundary/effective barrier on the northern boundary of the recreation ground
- Following site visit, Limebridge Rural Services made the following comment:
The northern boundary of the Park has remained unmaintained all season as it can only be cut by hand using strimmer's over the area of the dumped soil from the play equipment installation. If your council wish to have this boundary brought into a regularly maintained state, we recommend the dumped soil is flattened and seeded to allow it to be cut with mowers. The works specification would be to level all the dumped soil over a larger area along the boundary and then de-stone the levelled soil

and seed it with sports field grass seed bring the boundary in to amenity use or seeded with wildflowers and mown once or twice a year to keep it under control and weed free. We consider if the current situation remains then the boundary will be overwhelmed by bramble growth and weeds. If you would like a full works specification and quotation for this boundary restoration, we would be please to submit this for your council's consideration

Councillors would like me to request a quote for the above.