

Playground Report for January 2023

The equipment and playground were inspected on 8th January 2023 and the general appearance is reasonable. All the equipment is aged but safe. The grass is slightly long, but in the depth of winter and with so much rain it is probably a good situation.

The "sand-pit" is still incomplete. Decision needed on design to keep it cat-proof!

The south gate is not satisfactory. The slam gap is now non-existent. A major resetting of the gate post is needed. Not a five-minute job.... Still to be dealt with.

Other than these items identified by ROSPA I am listing the following.

One of the half-round steps on the infant climbing frame and one on the junior climbing frame area showing signs of splitting due to age or rot and will need replacement later this year.

The climbing wall of the main climbing frame requires tightening as does the back panel of the slide tower of the same frame.

As to the rest of the equipment: -

The spinner, bouncing horse and Infant climbing frame are all in sound condition

The Junior climbing frame, swings and bouncer (see note above) are all in sound condition, although all the wood is showing signs of age, and the very beginnings of rot near ground level where the strimmer has eroded the wood of both swing frames which needs monitoring.

The weeds under the fencing around the playground was cleared by Dalcour and the bottom of the planks need to be clear of the ground. The only practical way of doing this is to cut off the bottom 3 or 4 inches of every panel. Not yet done.

As to the rest of the Jubilee Playing Field area:-

I have dealt with the mole which was in residence along the west side of the playground.

The Queens Jubilee tree seems to have died despite the best efforts during the long hot dry spell, but has now been broken off about 1 foot above ground and will need to be replaced with a new tree.

The 32 diseased Ash trees in the spinney are due for felling on 18th January.

The playing field fencing needs doing particularly at the South end between our field and Staplehurst land. We need to remove the old and replace. The fencing will be expensive if we do not have volunteer labour, but we need people who know what they are doing.

The pitch is soddened with all this rain but is in satisfactory good condition at the moment.

Robin Stafford Allen. 8th January 2023