

Playground Report for 3rd February 2021.

The equipment and playground were inspected on 2nd February 2021 the general appearance is reasonable. The grass is still sodden has been hit by a lot more rain in the last three months but it looks acceptable.

The bench outside the playground has a broken lath that needs replacing.

There are some actions, none of which is classed as major as a result of the ROSPA inspection and report.

The south gate was not satisfactory but by my action of inserting wedges into the ground anchor as a short-term measure, I had briefly managed to correct this problem with the gate, but it has already sunk back. A major resetting of the gate post is needed. Not a five-minute job....

The safety surface is still a problem, although not a major issue to be dealt with immediately.

There were two large dents in the ground just inside the North Gate and I have filled them with earth from the molehills. Grass has yet to grow over these.

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 picnic table in the middle of the playground still has two bolts that could do with tightening on one of the benches (not urgent and a significant job as the bolts have seized).

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 are all in sound condition.

The significant general problem is the safety surfacing as this is shrinking away from the wooden edging to the surfacing and this still needs repair.

Over the other side of the field, the Picnic area looks reasonable after being under water during the recent rains.

The hedge around most of the car park needs cutting back.

The pitch grass was flooded completely when the rains came but has coped quite well with the water and it has now drained away.

Robin Stafford Allen. February 2021.

Other matters

I have looked at the back of the Manor. The moat has partially filled which is super. The gully across the Dower house garden is filled with water but practically nothing is flowing into the moat which is concerning. Cannot discern where it is being held up, but Vincent from Coppermill had a

conversation with me a month or two ago and assured me he had had the buried pipe across his garden checked for patency and was keen to have water flowing. The Henman's have a lined pond in the garden, and this seemed to be well filled with water but none was coming under Monk's Walk into the moat. Concerning.

The Manor has cleared a lot of the debris out of the moat including the old bridge and the foundation piles are now clearly visible. (I do hope there are plans to build another bridge). The clearance has enhanced the surrounding of the moat wonderfully. There are many beehives near the moat – again a wonderful addition.