

Playground Report for February 2023

The equipment and playground were inspected on 1st February 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 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 but it looks like the car park resident mole may be looking for pastures new and I may have to pursue him if he encroaches on the field.

The Queens Jubilee tree has been removed. Are we going to replant?

The 32 diseased Ash trees in the spinney were felled on 18th January. Bicester Tree Services did a superb job with minimal mess and disruption. The wood was left in long lengths for collection by villagers.

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 as sodden and a couple of cars got stuck and a load of chippings have now been spread through the gateway, presumably by Ardley Football Club organisers.

Robin Stafford Allen. 1st February 2023