

Playground Report for 5th April 2021.

The equipment and playground were inspected on 2nd April 2021 the general appearance is reasonable. The grass is a little long in places but it looks acceptable.

I am pleased that Kieran has completed a pressure-wash clean and a biocide spray of the playground.

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

There was a split fence upright plank which I removed, glued back together and have replaced

I also have replaced most of the bolt covers on the four-way bouncer as they were very faded and made the equipment look old. The PC purchased the replacements yellow covers but it appears that counting is not one of my skills as I have run out before finishing the job so I have ordered a few more at my expense.

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. The slam gap is too small. 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.

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 (see note above) 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 good with a beautiful area of snowdrops.

I have coarsely cut back both sides of the hedge along the south of the car park and put the trimmings on the "children's allotment" area for a bonfire at some point.

At Ardley's request I mowed the pitch and the surrounds last week and Ardley have marked out the pitch in preparation for some football activity.

I have ordered a key for the bin in the picnic area and am disappointed that it has not turned up yet to enable me to empty the bin.

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Robin Stafford Allen. April 2021.

Other matters

I have committed to starting the process of getting permission to repair the weirs with sandbags but received a disappointing letter back from Calcutt Farms, but a very pleasant supportive message from Staplehurst. The response to Calcutt is an agenda item (draft response) to discuss. This is particularly irksome as I received a very warm welcome and positive attitude from the occupants of Stonehouse farm.