

Playground Report for November 2022

The equipment and playground were inspected on 29th October 2022 and the general appearance is reasonable. All the equipment is aged but safe. During September we had the Dalcour Maclaren day when extensive work was done to the playground. The earth added has significantly reduced the tripping hazard of the safety surface.

Most of the bolt covers requiring replacement were completed during the Dalcour day, but there are still a few left and we are out of stock of the replacements. Most of the wood was treated with Danish Oil and the appearance has improved for this treatment.

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.

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

The "unofficial" footpath along the back of the Church Close housing might affect this as we need a proper gate and way into the field. What are we going to do about this footpath?

The pitch has been well used for matches and for football training and is in pleasing good condition at the moment. This was marked out recently to retain the line positions before the fireworks evening.

Robin Stafford Allen. 29th October 2022.