

Playground Report for March 2022

The equipment and playground were inspected on 27th February 2022 and the general appearance is reasonable although the grass is a little long. All the equipment is aged but safe..

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 main one being one of the gates (North one) needed the return spring repaired which I have repaired again. There are some less accessible bolt head covers that need replacing.

The south gate was 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 eventually.

One of the uprights in the fence (SW corner) had been kicked out again. I have replaced this with a new piece of wood that matches reasonably.

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.

A black box has been added for additional equipment (sports equipment).

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, although all the wood is showing signs of age, and the beginnings of rot near ground level where the strimmer has eroded the wood of both swing frames which needs monitoring.

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.

The hoop has been lying down for ages, so today I have set it upright and filled the base with water to see if it leaks out. Time will tell.

Over the other side of the field, the Picnic area looks reasonable. The mud kitchen has some equipment.

The Galos brook bridge by the picnic area keeps blocking up with wood branches etc. If this is allowed to build up and then we have heavy rains the road will flood. I have cleared it multiple times.

The mower needs maintenance over the winter and this will result in an expenditure of £200 or so for resharpening and oil change etc.

I have fitted the gateway from the car park with two mats.

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I have fitted the footpath from North Lane with 7 mats.

Mike Moss of the Kirtlington estate has given an invoice of £150 for flail trimming the hedge.

We need to think of clearing the spinney. Last year it got well out of control. Again we could appeal for volunteers. Separate email on this.

The fencing needs doing. 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. Discuss.

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 use for matches and for football training.

Robin Stafford Allen. Feb 2022.