

## Playground Report for 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

The equipment and playground were inspected on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and the general appearance is reasonable. The grass is still sodden but in need of a cut having been hit by a lot of rain in the last few days.

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.

One plug-style bolt cover has been replaced on the infants climbing frame.

Several bolt covers have been replaced on other items of playground equipment.

The south gate was not satisfactory but by my action of inserting wedges into the ground anchor as a short-term measure, I had managed to correct this problem with the gate, but it has already sunk back a bit.

The safety surface is still a problem, although not a major issue to be dealt with immediately. There is one significant dent or hole in the grass surface just inside the gate that will need an earth fill.

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 bars on the other ramp are loose due to drying out in this hot dry weather. 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 tables were inspected and are marked following some vandalism. This has been significantly removed by someone, or the heavy rain. I rough mowed the area again a couple of weeks ago but the floods of the brook this last week has immersed the picnic area, and most of the pitch in water.

The surround to the car park has been significantly tidied up. I started it and Kieran has manfully cut back hedge and undergrowth. The trimming has been placed in the Children's garden in preparation for a bonfire.

The hedge around most of the car park is getting out of control and needs cutting back.

With thanks to John Miller for the load of equipment the pile of chippings in the car park has been cleared for the Football Club to use the whole car park particularly as they are paying us.

The pitch grass looks good given the rain and it has been marked out and used by Ardley Football club several times this month except that recently it is only of use for water polo.

Robin Stafford Allen. October 2020