

Playground Report for MAY 2022

The equipment and playground were inspected on 10th May 2022 and the general appearance is reasonable although the grass is getting long. All the equipment is aged but safe..

The bench outside the playground has a broken lath that needs replacing. A new bench has been positioned near this --- the "Queen's" Bench.

There are some actions, none of which is classed as major, as a result of the ROSPA inspection and report. 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.

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 new box-bench has been added for additional equipment (sports equipment) courtesy of the "Welcome Back Fund"

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 is now upright and the base is still filled with water.

Over the other side of the field, the Picnic area looks reasonable. The mud kitchen has some new equipment and another "cooker" to be added shortly.

The mower has had maintenance over the winter and a recent breakdown (split hydraulic hose) and this will result in an expenditure of £200.

I have fitted the gateway from the car park with two mats and the grass is coming through as intended. See photo

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

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.

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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 and is in pleasing good condition at the moment.

Robin Stafford Allen. May 2022.