

## Kingmoor Parish Council

### Re-opening of Play Equipment

#### Risk Assessment

The Government recently announced that Play Parks could be re-opened on 4 July 2020 and subsequently produced guidance offering “practical advice on how these can be reopened and managed effectively to enable their use while minimising the transmission risk of COVID-19”. The guidance is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms>

The guidance includes a requirement to “carry out an appropriate COVID-19 risk assessment”. It is made very clear that “Failure to complete a risk assessment which takes account of COVID-19, or completing a risk assessment but failing to put in place sufficient measures to manage the risk of COVID-19, could constitute a breach of health and safety law”. On that basis, this Risk Assessment takes each of the Key Principles as set out in the guidance and assesses whether or not practical arrangements can be put in place in the context of Cargo Play area.

<b>Key Principle</b>	<b>Government Guidance</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>
General Maintenance Issues following Lockdown	Ensure equipment is safe to use and that risks from damaged or defective equipment are addressed before opening.	Cargo Play area will receive its 2020 external inspection in August / September.  The play area is inspected on a fortnightly basis by a volunteer and these records are monitored and actioned as necessary	Fortnightly inspections will consider as standard and issues identified will be actioned.
Social Distancing	Put in place measures to support social distancing – 2m or 1m plus risk mitigations. Examples given include:	Cargo Play area is an open play area used by a low population density local area.	Signage to be prepared regarding social distancing guidance, and use of the play-area in conjunction with the new COVID requirements.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit number of users at any one time</li> <li>• Booking system</li> <li>• Advisory signage</li> <li>• Create waiting areas with barriers</li> </ul>	<p>A booking system is not practicable due to the size &amp; budget and staff resource of the Parish Council.</p> <p>Advisory Signage will be installed asking parents of users to follow social distancing, and ask children to wait if a child is already on a piece of equipment.</p>	
<p>Cleaning and Hygiene</p>	<p>Clean high traffic touch points frequently. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Play Equipment</li> <li>• Seating Areas</li> <li>• Refuse Bins</li> </ul> <p>In addition, use signage to encourage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Users to clean equipment before and after use</li> <li>• Use of hand sanitiser and frequent hand washing</li> </ul> <p>Where practicable, provide hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities at entry and exit points.</p>	<p>It is not practicable for the Parish Council to clean play equipment or the infrastructure in and around the play area due to budgetary and staff constraints.</p> <p>The play area is sited in the open air and receives contact from all elements (e.g. sunshine, rain etc) and it is recognised that the natural elements reduce the amount of time that the virus survives on surfaces.</p> <p>Signage will be placed to encourage users to bring hand sanitiser with them for usage at the site and to encourage</p>	<p>Signage to be installed confirming that the play equipment is not washed/cleaned and that users should take responsibility for their use of hand sanitiser.</p> <p>Consumption of food &amp; drink within the site will be prohibited by the signage.</p>

		hand washing on their return to their home.	
Face Coverings	If possible, a face covering should be worn in enclosed public spaces where social distancing isn't possible and where the public may come into contact with people they do not normally meet. (Face coverings should not be used by children under the age of 3 or those who may find it difficult to manage them correctly).	The Play-Area is not in an enclosed public space, and is unlikely to be ever be considered a 'crowded' space.	Guidance on face covering will be included in the signage installed on site.
Additional Measures and Communicating with Parents	Promote responsible behaviour by children, parents, carers and guardians. For example, owners and operators should consider putting up signs to make clear to users, parents, guardians and carers that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• consumption of food or drink on play equipment or in the playground area is banned</li> <li>• parents, guardians or carers should dispose of all litter including any used protective wear such as face coverings or gloves</li> </ul>	Signage will be included at the play area Site prohibiting the consumption of food & drink within the play area.	Signage to be included on the disposal of litter & waste.

	properly in litter bins, taking it home where a bin is not provided.		
Considering Children with Additional Needs	Take into account the requirements of children with additional needs.	The Covid 19 pandemic has not altered the accessibility of the play area.	N/A
Keeping Staff Safe	<p>Consider the risks staff may be exposed to and how these can be mitigated. Staff roles may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cleaning playground equipment/surrounding areas</li> <li>• managing queues of those waiting to use equipment</li> <li>• stewarding equipment to ensure users comply with rules made by the owner/operator</li> </ul>	Kingmoor Parish Council only have one member of staff employed for part of a day per week, as noted above the Parish Council are not able to offer staff resource to manning and cleaning the play area on a daily basis.	The Volunteer Council member erecting the new signage will be advised to wear gloves whilst erecting the new signs, and to carry hand sanitiser with them, and to wash their hands on return to their home.

### Conclusions

New signage to be erected at the Cargo play area and the play area at Crindledyke, covering the matters discussed in the risk assessment above. The risk assessment will be reviewed and retained following any future alteration to governmental regulations.

**Risk Assessments undertaken by Clerk and circulated to councillors to be approved at the July parish council meeting.**