



RE-OPENING OF PLAY EQUIPMENT AND OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT

RISK ASSESSMENT

The Government recently announced that Play Areas & Outdoor Gyms 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 the open access play area, gated play area and the outdoor gym.

Key Principle	Government Guidance	Assessment	Conclusion
General Maintenance Issues following Lockdown	Ensure equipment is safe to use and that risks from damaged or defective equipment are addressed before opening.	The equipment will all be checked prior to re-opening but as it is checked regularly, there should be no defects. The annual service of the Outdoor Gym took place on the 30 th June 2020	There are no general maintenance issues. Weekly maintenance checks are in progress as normal
Social Distancing	Put in place measures to support social distancing – 2m or 1m plus risk mitigations. Examples given include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limit number of users at any one time	The equipment is well spaced, the only issues may arise in relation to the climbing frames in the play areas	Subject to appropriate signage, there is little more that the Parish Council can do.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Booking system • Advisory signage • Create waiting areas with barriers 	and the Nebraska Frame in the Outdoor Gym	
Cleaning and Hygiene	<p>Clean high traffic touch points frequently. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Play Equipment • Seating Areas • Refuse Bins <p>In addition, use signage to encourage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users to clean equipment before and after use • Use of hand sanitiser and frequent hand washing <p>Where practicable, provide hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities at entry and exit points.</p>	<p>The handles & gates on the outdoor gym will be sanitised daily; reduced cleaning at the weekend due to staffing. Weekly cleaning log attached as Appendix A</p> <p>The advisory signage will cover most of these points. Providing hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities is not an option due to the amount of criminal damage and vandalism in the area</p>	<p>It is accepted that there is a risk of children using the play equipment passing the virus, however this is no greater than them being at school or playing with other children generally. The signage would minimise our risk of liability. Users of the Outdoor Gym will do so at their own risk</p>
Face Coverings	<p>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).</p>	Impossible to implement or monitor	This is for the individual to decide not the Parish Council
Additional Measures and Communicating with Parents	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consumption of food or drink on play equipment or in the playground area is banned 	The provision of signage and messages on social media and the Parish Council website should provide sufficient communication with potential users	The steps proposed would mitigate the risks significantly

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> parents, guardians or carers should dispose of all litter including any used protective wear such as face coverings or gloves 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.	These are risks which can only be assessed by carers/parents or guardians.	The Parish Council are not providers of specialist services for children with additional needs and any risk assessment must be undertaken by carers.
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"> cleaning playground equipment/surrounding areas managing queues of those waiting to use equipment stewarding equipment to ensure users comply with rules made by the owner/operator 		This has been addressed with the Covid-19 Health & Safety Risk Assessment in re-opening facilities

Conclusions

The Community Centre Play Areas and Outdoor Gym provide a much-needed area for residents of Wootton Parish to exercise in a safe environment. The advice from National County Association, SLCC, NCALC and the Government, has all been studied at length. Whilst it must be acknowledged that there is some risk of the transmission of Covid 19, it is the view of the Parish Clerk that provided the Parish Council takes all the steps outlined above, the play Areas & Outdoor Gym can safely re-open.

Risk Assessments undertaken by the Clerk and will be published on the Parish Council Website

30th June 2020

OUTDOOR GYM WEEKLY SANITISING LOG v2 - Week-Commencing 6th July 2020

Description	Location	Monday			Tuesday			Wednesday			Thursday			Friday			Saturday	Sunday
		8am	12pm	4pm	8am	12pm	4pm	8am	12pm	4pm	8am	12pm	4pm	8am	12pm	4pm	8am	8am
Outdoor Gym Fitness Equipment																		
Entry gate (nearest Curtlee Hill)	WCSC Entrance																	
Entry gate (nearest Centre)	WCSC Entrance																	
Street Workout Nebraska Unit x1	WCSC Entrance																	
Workout Seatless Chest Press / Lateral Pull Combi	WCSC Entrance																	
Workout Tai Chi Wheel	WCSC Entrance																	
Variable Resistance Squat Machine	WCSC Entrance																	
Variable Resistance Seated Row	WCSC Entrance																	
Variable Resistance Shoulder Press	WCSC Entrance																	
Variable Resistance Chest Fly	WCSC Entrance																	
Variable Resistance Cross Rider x 2	WCSC Entrance																	
Variable Resistance Recline Bike	WCSC Entrance																	
Variable Resistance Leg Extension	WCSC Entrance																	
Variable Resistance Seated PullDown	WCSC Entrance																	
Variable Resistance Adductor	WCSC Entrance																	
Variable Resistance Chest Press	WCSC Entrance																	
Variable Resistance Arm Bikes	WCSC Entrance																	
Customised Site Sign x 3	WCSC Entrance																	
Log Hurdles	WCSC Entrance																	
Overhead Ladder	WCSC Entrance																	
Monkey Bar Log	WCSC Entrance																	
A-Frame High	WCSC Entrance																	
Log Stack	WCSC Entrance																	
Bow Top Fencing / 1m high x 72m	WCSC Entrance																	
Bow Top Single Gate x 2	WCSC Entrance																	

Comments / Notes: