

## SHEPTON MALLET TOWN COUNCIL

### RISK ASSESSMENT FOR THE REOPENING OF PLAY EQUIPMENT IN COLLETT PARK DATED 27 July 2020

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 reopening and managed effectively to enable their use while minimising the transmission 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 2 play areas in Collett Park, Shepton Mallet.

KEY PRINCIPLE	GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE	ASSESSMENT	CONCLUSION
<p>Allow for <b>general maintenance</b> following the period of closure: To ensure that equipment is safe to use and damaged or defective equipment is addressed before opening. To ensure that the surfaces are free from defects and hazards.</p>	<p>Ensure equipment is safe to use and that risks from damaged or defective equipment are addresses before opening</p>	<p>A thorough assessment will be undertaken as equipment is put back in place, and all equipment will be cleaned, checked and tested.</p> <p>Surfaces will be mowed, cleared of any litter and a thorough inspection for hazards</p>	<p>Play equipment will be in a state that allows safe use.</p> <p>The normal standards would apply, and the equipment and surfaces will be ready for use.</p> <p>Only one swing per frame will be in use.</p>
<p><b>Social Distancing</b></p>	<p>Put in place measures to support social distancing of 2m or 1m plus risk mitigations. Examples include:</p> <p>Limit number of users at any one time</p> <p>Introduce a booking system</p>	<p>The areas will rely on parents managing the usage themselves and a poster will advice: 12 people in older children’s play area, 16 people in younger children’s play area.</p> <p>A booking system is not workable as we do not have such facilities</p>	<p>Signage advising the numbers at any one time.</p> <p>Signage will be on the outside of the park and inside the park asking people to limit the time on the equipment.</p>

	<p>Erect advisory signage</p> <p>Create waiting areas with barriers</p> <p>Setting a time limit for play</p>	<p>Signage can be placed, but this will not accommodate those who have a visual impairment.</p> <p>The areas outside the younger child's play area could be crowded with passers-by and those already queuing for the café.</p> <p>The play areas are unsupervised and it will be left to parents/guardians to determine when their limit for play it up, causing potential issues for those</p>	<p>Signs have been installed. In bright colours with graphics and plain English.</p> <p>Signage to encourage people to queue along the fenced area and not block the path.</p> <p>Signage to advice parents to limit their time in the area, or come back when it is quiet.</p>
Cleaning and Hygiene	<p>Clean high traffic touch points frequently. This includes: Gates All play equipment Seating areas Bins Fencing</p> <p>Where practicable provide hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities at entry and exit points.</p>	<p>There is a lot of areas that would require frequent/constant cleaning and require a member of staff to be permanently cleaning.</p> <p>A hand sanitiser has been provided on the outside of the park, hours of 8am – 4pm, but it will only be filled each morning</p>	<p>This is not feasible and signage will state that the equipment is not cleaned frequently.</p> <p>Hand sanitiser is situated outside the parks between 8am and 4pm.</p>
Face Coverings	<p>If possible, a face covering should be worn when social distancing is not possible and where the public may come into contact with people that they do not normally meet</p>	<p>Very difficult to administer and people will chose whether to wear a face covering or not</p>	<p>Not possible to implement.</p>
Additional Measures	<p>Promote responsible behaviour by children, parents, carers and guardians. For example, owners and operators should consider putting up signs to take clear to users that consumption of food</p>	<p>Most people will be responsible, but we will be unable to manage those who chose to flout any rules.</p>	<p>There has not been an issue in the past, and therefore it can be reasonable to assume that there will not be any behavioural issues when the parks do open.</p>

	and drink on play equipment or in the playground is banned Should dispose of all litter		
Children with additional needs	Take into account the requirements of children's with additional needs	Some children will not understand the need to queue, nor want to queue, but they will be with their carers who make the judgement if it is safe for them to be using the park	Difficult to put any measures in place that accommodate additional needs and therefore will have to be assessed by the parent/guardian.
Keeping staff safe	Consider the risks staff may be exposed to and how these can be mitigated	Staff wear gloves and can wear masks.	Staff will wear masks and gloves while working in the play areas.

### Conclusions

While the play equipment is safe, and the surfaces and ground have all been checked and are safe, there remains a risk that Covid 19 could be transmitted in this area. Therefore, parents, and others, who use the play areas, must act responsibly and not access the area if they are unable to ensure their own safety or have any symptoms of Covid 19.

Therefore, with the measures described in this risk assessment, the play areas can open. Usage of the area will be monitored and if there appears to be excessive people in the areas at any one time, then the areas will be closed.

**Risk assessment undertaken by Charlotte Starkie.**