

WHPC Meeting 1st Oct 2024

Agenda Item 24/312

Playpark – Annual RoSPA Playpark Inspection 2024

Purpose

1. To receive the 2024 RoSPA Playpark Inspection Report
2. To confirm remedial actions, if appropriate, and to approve a budget for remedial actions

1. Background

West Hill Parish Council provides a children’s playpark for community use. The Council has a responsibility to maintain and inspect the playpark:

- under various acts of legislation including Health & Safety (1974)
- under the terms of its insurance cover

The playpark and equipment are regularly inspected to ensure they are secure and safe and any remedial work that may be required is carried out promptly: weekly (Cllrs), monthly (EDDC RoSPA qualified Inspector) and annually by RoSPA. In addition, WHPC carries out a detailed annual inspection.

The annual inspection is included in those commissioned by EDDC. Once the report is received EDDC invoice the Parish Council for the £100 +vat fee. (This is included in the WHPC budget).

2. RoSPA Report 2024

The 2023 RoSPA inspection took place on **21st August 2024**. The assessment of each item of equipment (from the waste bins to the Climbing frame) is recorded and a detailed report submitted to the Parish Council for review/action. WHPC received the RoSPA report on 20th September 2024. In summary,


- No matters of serious concern were identified.
- The natural play log and basket swing were considered a MEDIUM risk.
- All other equipment given a risk rating of LOW/VERY LOW







All items and its surfacing (where applicable) were considered to meet with the requirements of the relevant standards.

The findings are summarised in Appendix A and the full report is provided separately.

3. For consideration

Councillors are asked to note the findings of the RoSPA inspection and consider the proposed actions:

Asset	Finding Title	Risk Level	RoSPA recommendation Playpark WG proposed action
a. Balance trail	Timber is decayed. 	Low	Replace affected parts. Proposed action:

Asset	Finding Title	Risk Level	RoSPA recommendation Playpark WG proposed action
b. Entrance gate	There is a crushing or shearing point on the side of the gate. Where the gaps reduce to less than 12 mm these have been known to cause serious, permanent injury to children, especially on the hinge side where the leverage forces are significant.	Low	Adjust gate / posts / fit new rubber buffer to ensure a spacing of at least 12 mm throughout the range of the gate to remove the entrapment. The 12 mm gap also should apply on the hinge side of the gate. Note: The gate is the property of the Village Hall Trustees Playpark WG Proposed action:
c. Rotator (Pirouette)	Dry bearings 	Low	Treat with oil, grease or silicon spray according to supplier's instructions. Playpark WG Proposed action:
d. Seating - Mixed	Timber is decayed 	Low	Monitor on a routine basis. Proposed action: None. WHPC replaced the wooden benches on 3 rd September 2024.
e. Basket Swing		Medium	Note: the Inspector did not make any comments on this item. The innate risk of this type of equipment is Medium. Playpark WG Proposed action:
f. Swing	Two maintenance issues were listed: Some chain wear.  Timber is decayed. 	Low	Monitor for further deterioration and replace before 40% wear Playpark WG Proposed action: Check on a routine basis. Playpark WG Proposed action:
g. Natural Play log			Remove Item None. WHPC removed the item on 3 rd September 2024

RoSPA Inspection Findings 21st August 2024

The table below is a summary of the detailed RoSPA report on their inspection of 21st August 2024.

General Notes – RoSPA Risk Score

The innate or default risk score of the asset, assuming it has no faults and complies with standards,

The actual risk score of the asset at the time of inspection, being the highest of the finding risks or the innate risk,

Table 1 – Risk Score Matrix

		Severity				
Likelihood		1 Insignificant	2 Minor	3 Moderate	4 Major	5 Catastrophic
	1 = Rare	1 LOW	2 LOW	3 LOW	4 LOW	5 LOW
	2 = Unlikely	2 LOW	4 LOW	6 LOW	8 MEDIUM	10 MEDIUM
	3 = Moderate	3 LOW	6 LOW	9 MEDIUM	12 MEDIUM	15 HIGH
	4 = Likely	4 LOW	8 MEDIUM	12 MEDIUM	16 HIGH	20 HIGH
	5 = Certain	5 LOW	10 MEDIUM	15 HIGH	20 HIGH	25 HIGH

Equipment	RoSPA assessment Aug-24	Innate Risk Level	Risk Score	Inspector's findings to note
-----------	-------------------------	-------------------	------------	------------------------------

1. Balance Trail	Low	6	7	Timber is decayed on one of the stepping logs. Replace affected parts.
2. Pedestrian/vehicle gate	Low	4	6	Minor works to reduce risk of finger entrapment
3. Waste/re-cycling bins	Very Low	3	3	
4. Climbing frame/multitplay	Low	6	6	
5. Rotator/Pirouette	Low	6	6	Dry bearings. Treat with oil/silicon spray
6. Seating *wooden benches	Low	3	3	Areas of timber decay
7. Signage	Very Low	2	2	
8. Small slide	Low	4	4	
9. Swing basket	Medium	8	8	
10. Triple Swing	Low	6	6	Some chain wear. Replace at 40% wear. Top bar + legs timber is decayed. (Monitor)
11. Natural Play Log	Medium	5	8	Timber is rotting. Recommend removal.