

WHPC Meeting 7th April 2026

Item 26/084

West Hill Playpark: Annual WHPC Maintenance Check 2026

The inspection was carried out by Cllrs Ann Cooper and Ben Jewell on Thursday 5th March 2026. The weather over the preceding weeks was wet.

1. General appearance of Playpark

- clearly a well-used facility,
- grassed areas were muddy due to significant rainfall
- no significant weeds

2. Findings

Appendix A provides an assessment of each piece of equipment in the playpark and of the surrounding boundaries. A summary of the findings is shown below:

| Equipment | Condition Status | WHPC Risk Assessment Jan-25 | RoSPA assessment Aug-25 | Proposed actions |
|---|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 1. Small slide | Good | Low | Low | None |
| 2. Triple swing | Good | Low | Low | Monitor areas of rot + chains Replace before 40% wear on chains |
| 3. Birds nest swing | Excellent | Very Low | Low | None |
| 4. Climbing Corkscrew | Excellent | Low | Low | Monitor safety matting |
| 5. Climbing Frame with play slide climber | Excellent, bolt cap damaged on swing bridge | Very Low | Low | Check climbing holds (can get loose) replace bolt cap |
| 6. Climbing bars | Excellent | Very Low | Low | None |
| 7. Wooden Columns | Excellent | Very Low | Low | None |
| 8. Benches | Excellent New benches installed 2024 | Low | Low | None |
| 9. Footpath | Good bark chips topped up in Jan 2026 | Low | Low | Monitor |
| 10. Gates | Excellent New gates installed Feb 2026 | Very Low | Low | None |
| 11. Trees | trees are getting overgrown | Low | Low | Trim overhanging branches on western boundary |
| 12. Boundaries | Good | Low | Low | Monitor |
| 13. Picnic bench | Good | Very Low | Low | None |
| 14. Waste Bins | Excellent | Very Low | Low | None |
| 15. Earth mound near bins | Good | Low | Low | Monitor |
| 16. Noticeboard | Good | Good | Low | None |

3. 2025-2026 Maintenance and Improvements

During 2025 - 2026

- Triple Swing: Replaced a cross-brace due to areas of decaying timber.
- the Parish Council installed a hard surface path and new gates to improved access to the playpark.

4. Playpark Inspections

- a. RoSPA: The 2025 RoSPA inspection took place on 27th August 2025. 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. In summary,
- No matters of serious concern were identified.
 - All equipment given a risk rating of LOW/VERY LOW.

The ROSPA report was presented to the WHPC meeting on 7th October 2025 (Min 25/318). Councillors noted the report and it was resolved to monitor the triple swing (areas of rotten timber).

- b. EDDC: Monthly inspections are carried out and any exceptions are reported to WHPC
- No outstanding issues
- c. Weekly: The playpark is inspected by Cllrs on a weekly basis.

5. Maintenance

The contract with the WHPC Lengthsman, Pro-Lawn Garden Services includes:

- Grass cutting during the growing season March – October
- Timber treatment - clear water repellent applied
- Hedge cutting - low beech hedge plus inside face of West Hill Road boundary hedge (VH Trustees are responsible for cutting the top and road facing side).




6. For decision





We recommend WHPC undertakes the actions set out in section 2 above.



Actions:


- To trim sharp edges on roots on the mound. **(Completed)**
- To monitor the triple swing for wear.
- To replace the bolt cap on the climbing frame

Cllr Ann Cooper/Cllr Ben Jewell
16th March 2026

| Equipment | Status | Risk | Proposed Action |
|--------------------|---|----------|---|
| Small Slide | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Slide in good condition Safety mat in place and in good condition The slide had been re-located in 2022.  | Very low | n/a |
| Triple Swing | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Generally good condition.  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Area of delamination on middle rear upright Swing seats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basket seat had been replaced in 2022 and was in good condition. Flat seat Swing mechanisms functioning/not loose. | Low | <p>Commission repair of bracing bar est £150+vat</p> <p>Annual wood treatment</p> <p>Monitor areas of rot</p> |
| Birds Nest Swing | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent condition  | Very low | Annual wood treatment |
| Climbing Corkscrew | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Corkscrew in excellent condition Some areas beneath the rubber matting showing some signs of hollowing out. (minor) Red paint sprayed on top | Low | Monitor matting |

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|-----------------------|--|-----------------|------------------------------|
| |  | | |
| <p>Climbing Frame</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This item of equipment was installed in July 2022. 2. Ropes and climbing fixtures were checked and found sound. 3. Grass well established and growing through safety matting. 4. Replace bolt cap cover on wooden bridge. <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div> | <p>Very Low</p> | |
| <p>Climbing Bars</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Excellent condition 2. This item of equipment was re-positioned in 2022 to facilitate the installation of the climbing frame.  | <p>Very low</p> | <p>Annual wood treatment</p> |

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|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|
| <p>Wooden Columns</p> | <p>1. Excellent condition</p>  | <p>n/a</p> | <p>Annual wood treatment</p> |
| <p>Balance Bar</p> | <p>1. Excellent condition</p> | <p>n/a</p> | <p>Annual wood treatment</p> |
| <p>Benches</p> | <p>1. Excellent condition.</p> | <p>Low</p> | |
| <p>Footpath</p> | <p>1. Bark chippings have been topped up. 2. Some edging timbers have been replaced.</p> | <p>Low - Medium</p> | <p>Monitor Monitor</p> |
| <p>Gates</p> | <p>1. New gates in excellent condition. 2. Rubber stoppers should be applied under closing bar to stop gingers getting trapped.</p> | <p>Low - medium</p> | <p>Discuss with lengthsmen</p> |
| <p>Trees</p> | <p>1. It was difficult to assess the condition of the trees due to the weather conditions and winter dormancy. 2. Trees within the playpark near waste bins are getting very overgrown.</p> | <p>Low</p> | <p>Discuss with the Village Hall manager.</p> |
| <p>Boundaries</p> | <p>1. Fencing – generally in good condition. 2. Hedges – Good condition. - Evidence of children’s den in hedge near waste bin. 3. Mesh Fencing – good condition</p> | <p>Low Low Low</p> | |
| <p>Picnic Bench</p> | <p>1. Well used but in good condition</p>  | | <p>Annual timber treatment</p> |
| <p>Bins – Waste + Recycling</p> | <p>1. Excellent condition</p> | <p>Very Low</p> | |

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|-------------|---|---|----------|--|
| |  | <p>(Waste Collection contract with EDDC – 3 collections per week Mon/Wed/Fri)</p> | | |
| Noticeboard | New item installed 23 rd January 2023 | | Very Low | |