

Agenda Item 12 – Annual RoSPA Play Area Reports

Inspections

The Parish Council's play equipment, surfaces and ancillary items in the play areas such as benches, bins, gates, fencing and signage are inspected as follows:

- Weekly visual inspections undertaken by the Litter Picker. Completed inspection sheets emailed to the Clerk.
- Every two months Mid Devon District Council carry out more detailed operational inspections. Inspection sheets emailed to the Clerk.
- Annually, in October, a full inspection is carried out by a RoSPA inspector. Full reports with photographs are emailed to the Clerk.

Throughout the year maintenance and repairs take place as needed and medium or high risk items dealt with in a timely fashion. Items identified in the weekly and two monthly inspections are dealt with as appropriate.

The annual full RoSPA inspection identifies issues, risk rates them and makes recommendations.

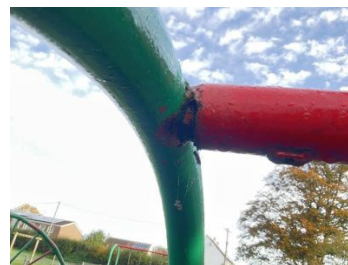
A proportionate approach should be applied to risks identified. As such, items that are rated very low or low will usually either be monitored for deterioration or no further action will be deemed necessary. If an item deteriorates more than is acceptable maintenance or repair will be carried out. Some maintenance is on a cyclical programme.

RoSPA inspection 2025 - Risks

Due to the length and size of the RoSPA reports, the Clerk summarises the risks identified with the risk rating, recommendations and actions in a table, which accompanies this paper. For 2025 all risks bar two are low or very low.

Medium Risk – One risk identified relating to the gap between the carousel and the surface at Jubilee Field. This has been raised at previous RoSPA inspections however the gap has been the same since installation and a subsequent inspection did not raise any concerns. A decision was taken previously to leave as is, it being at the lower end of the medium risk scale – one point above Low and it is not considered to pose an unacceptable risk.

High Risk – One risk identified on a toddler swing set (1 bay, 2 swings) in Jubilee Field due to corrosion at both ends of the top bar where it joins the supports. It is recommended that the set is replaced. Mid Devon District Council advise that replacement is not required imminently and they will continue monitoring but it should be replaced within the next few months.



Recommendations

1. It is **recommended** that the summary of risks, recommendations and actions is noted.
2. It is **recommended** that the toddler swing set (1 bay, 2 swings) in Jubilee Field is replaced due to identified corrosion, and that a decision is made on whether to replace with a new toddler swing set, another type of swing or a different piece of equipment. It is to be noted that this is the only toddler swing set in Jubilee Field – the other 2 sets are Junior swing sets.

Quotes

The Clerk has obtained quotes from a provider to replace on a couple of potential options:

1. As per existing configuration – £4,393 plus VAT. See picture 1 below.
2. Replacement with Basket Swing - £5,441 plus VAT. See picture 2 below.

This includes installation and removal of old swings.



The Clerk also obtained a quote for removal and fitting from the installer used previously and who fitted the equipment at Orchard Way earlier this year. The items would have to be purchased separately from the provider and delivered to the installer for him to fit. He would charge £1,155 plus VAT to remove the old swings and install the new equipment, including the Heras fencing required during installation. This represents a saving of £332 on each of the above options. The cost on this basis for option 1 would be £4,061 plus VAT and option 2 £5,109 plus VAT.

If Council would like a completely different piece of equipment then further quotes will need to be obtained for formal approval at a future meeting.

Debbie Bird
Willand Parish Clerk
December 2025