



NASH MILLS

PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk Report – Playpark Inspection January 2024

Council Actions Required

- That council ask the clerk to obtain quotes for the items suggested below by the warden and then brings the quotes back to council for council to determine an earmarked reserves sum and for council to determine a plan for a replacement schedule of items.

Background

NMPC own and maintain the play equipment in the leased play area at Bunkers Lane. The warden carries out minor repairs and weekly inspections. It appears that a number of items are brought up every quarter by our external inspection company which cannot be rectified or items which have been previously repaired/alternative options tested.

The warden has been asked to use his experience of the park and its equipment to offer his observations to assist councillors in their decision making.

Considerations

Warden review of report (should be referenced to the report from the Play inspection Company dated Nov 2023)

Gate

No lock on outer yellow gate. Grass cutting would not be undertaken by DBC if gates are locked.

No 12mm gap between gates. Right hand side of gate and fence would require refitting to get the correct gap.

Notices.

These have been fitted with screws, nuts & bolts & cable ties all have failed in past reports. Could try glue but cable ties are the safest option.

All the faults have been on the gate since park was refurbished.

Bench

This is the most solid piece of wood in the park, holes are from bolts which used to hold the rails on the sleeper.

Bolts underneath have been there since it was put in many years ago.

It's all low risk.

Swings

There is nothing high risk, but a number of items need replacing. This could be done in stages due to cost.

- Basket swing will need new ropes and basket (chains recently replaced)
- Normal swings will need new seats and chains.

- Small children's swings will need new seats and chains.
- The matting under the swings has never been right but it does not need doing.
- The wooden frame has always had splits and holes in it, so that can be left.
- The top connections which could fail look in good condition and the 3 loose ones have been exchanged.
- The basket swing has a history of damage due to burning the ropes and damage to the basket, this has happened to the Kings Langley and Nash Mills Wharf playgrounds as well.

Spring Apparatus.

All 3 are ok. They get sprayed for algae every year just before Easter.

Frame climber

This does have cracks in it. The largest one was bolted and filled on the advice of an early report. Then it was put as a fault on the next report. This fault has been since installation. Balance beams also the same as above and were also filled, but again failed when later inspected. The splits have been present since installation.

Slide

The slide is ok nothing wrong with it. One pillar needs to be sanded, nothing is loose and the slide itself is in good order just a couple of small dents where it has been walked on.

Warden Summary

There are things that require exchanging, but this could be done on a rolling programme mainly the swings and basket swing. As most faults have been since installation these faults will turn up every year on the inspection report and will be costly to put right. It might be worth looking to see if the basket swing could be replaced by something else which fits in its present gap due to the high cost of replacing it and this is the one thing that gets damaged. Having said that, it is used a lot by the local children and it the only 'accessible' item in the playpark.

Nov 2021 council commissioned a 'resi-d' drill test via The Play Inspection Company on the 2-bay swing apparatus. This showed that all wood was still sound, however, after my recent enquiry it appears that the company will not advise how long these results apply for or how often these should be undertaken.

Future Actions for a later date/budget consideration

Quotes, once obtained to be prioritised by council and a schedule of works agreed, in consultation with the warden, potential use of remaining CIL funds.

Suggested Alternatives and Quotes

N/A