

### Summary of RoSPA Play Safety Reports – June 2017

The following Play Areas are now owned and managed by Prudhoe Town Council and as such the Town Council is responsible for the safety and well being of all who use them and who work in them.

A weekly maintenance check is carried out by Northumberland County Council, by staff that have completed the appropriate training course and received the necessary qualification to do so.

Additionally, the British and European safety standard BS EN1176 and the Health and Safety Executive strongly recommend that all play areas have at least one inspection every year from an independent suitably qualified body. The Town Council have always used ROSPA for Highfield Park and therefore it made financial sense to use RoSPA for our newly acquired play areas. As well as meeting legal requirements, this also meets with insurance responsibilities and complies with the requirements of EN1176 (the European Playground Standard).

1 to 3	Very Low Risk
4 to 7	Low Risk
8 to 12	Medium Risk
13 to 20	High Risk
21+	Unacceptably High Risk

Low	Requires monitoring
Medium	Requires appropriate action
High	Requires Urgent Action

Castle Dene Play Area	
Issues Identified	Action taken/proposed
Basket Swing - safety keeper chain disconnected at upper point <b>Medium/8</b>	This had already been identified by NCC Officer during weekly checks and the part is being sought.
Cantilever Tyre Swing - splits in wooden pole that may increase decay and weaken the structure, monitor closely. <b>Medium/10</b>	This has been checked by NCC Officer and advice is to apply good preservative but expected to last +10 years. Will be monitored closely. Overall this is an old piece of equipment.
Cantilever Tyne Swing - wear on lower links of chain. <b>Medium/8</b>	NCC Officer identified only rust, this will be monitored closely. Overall this is an old piece of equipment.
Toddler Swing – Excess wear on bush shackles <b>Low/7</b>	2 NCC Officers have checked and can find no issue.
Wet Pour Surfacing – shrinkage/separation giving trip hazard. <b>Low/7</b>	NCC Officer has glued this particular hazard but advised that there is shrinkage in all areas where the old wet pour was cut to patch with new, rather than a full replacement being carried out. This will continue to shrink and create trip hazards.
The Copse Toddler Play	
Bin Liner Missing <b>Low/4</b>	NCC advised that this bin is not used and is not fit for purpose; suggestion is that it is removed.
Seating – Algae covered <b>Low/4</b>	Cost of power wash has been requested. Seat also needs to be added to audit for re-paint/preservative.
Toddler Multi-Play – Requires cleaning <b>Low/5</b>	Cost of power wash has been requested.

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<b>Orchard Hill Play Area</b>	
Bin Liner Missing <b>Low/3</b>	Bin is ordered and will be replaced as is well used.
Teen Shelter – offensive graffiti on the unit and timber in poor condition, slats require replacement <b>Very Low/3-4</b>	Cllrs Jennifer McGee, Gerry Price and George McCreedy to visit and make recommendation.
Gate – no buffer and closing mechanism not working <b>Low/5-6</b>	
Dog ban and ownership signs not present <b>Low/5</b>	Cllrs Jennifer McGee, Gerry Price and George McCreedy to visit and make recommendation.
Broken Glass <b>Medium/10</b>	Advised NCC
Surfacing – timber edge rotten and damaged <b>Low/7</b>	Cllrs Jennifer McGee, Gerry Price and George McCreedy to visit and make recommendation.
Overhead Rotator – wear to chain and rubber <b>Low/7</b>	As above. NCC Officer advised that this is mainly used by dog owners.
<b>Highfield Park &amp; Skate Park</b>	
Gates – should be painted in a contrasting colour <b>Low/3</b>	This is identified each year but has not been actioned due to low risk rating.
Gates – closing mechanism not working <b>Low/6</b>	This is identified each year, on-going maintenance required.
Junior Multi-Play Climbing Wall – finger trap <b>Low/7</b>	NCC Officer to check.
Junior Multi-Play Climbing Wall – caps missing <b>Low/5</b>	Order replacement caps from supplier.
Junior Multi-Play Arm Hang – rubber shroud damaged <b>Low/7</b>	Contact supplier for replacement, possibly under guarantee.
Space Net – wearing of central pole loose in ground <b>Low/7</b>	NCC Officer requested to carry out re-tension and check stability.
Wet Pour - surface crumbling <b>Low/6</b>	NCC Officer requested to check wet pour.
BMX Track – exposed sub-base <b>High/13</b>	Contractor has been requested to quote for repair. <i>Note that safety rating is Medium/10 generally.</i>
Skate Park Concrete Block – uneven surfaces and gaps <b>High/13</b>	Consider contractor able to repair concrete.  <b><i>Note that safety rating is High/13 generally.</i></b>
Skate Park Flat Bank with guard rail – transition between ground and unit exceeds 5mm <b>High/13</b>	Not aware of any remedial work that would reduce this effect.  <b><i>Note that safety rating is Medium/13 generally.</i></b>
Skate Park Quarter Pipe – metal welds are cracked <b>Medium/8</b>	Re-welding required but will be required again on an on-going basis due to wear and tear.  <b><i>Note that safety rating is Medium/10 generally.</i></b>
<b>West Mickley Play Area</b>	
This play area is newly installed and a post-inspection report will be carried out by the play provider. There will be a requirement to add signage, paint the gates contrasting colours and medn the closing mechanism and clearance.	

**Signage for all Play Areas**

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There is a legal requirement, under the Occupiers Liability Act 1957, 1984 to ensure that play areas have correct and adequate signage to provide information to users for the purposes of reporting accidents and damage.

All of the above Play Areas require new signage, excluding Highfield Park and Highfield Park Skate Park.

### **Signage Contents**

Play Area signage should include

1. Name of operator of the site – Prudhoe Town Council.
2. Contact details to report damage or accidents. Where the authority has a permanent office this should include the telephone number.
3. Location of nearest public telephone for contacting emergency services (Not essential)
4. Pictogram "No Dog" signs are also strongly recommended
5. Where there are overhead electric cables nearby "No Kite Flying" signs are recommended
6. Where play area is near a road the use of Road Signs to warn motorists of the presence of a playground should be considered (contact your local Highways Authority for provision of these).
7. Any notices regarding age of users should be carefully worded so that it does not imply that the area is safe for all users of that age. For instance a 12 year old may have the mental and physical capabilities of a three year old. Something that implies that the area is safe for all children over the age, say, of 7, would imply that it was also safe for this child and could result in litigation in the event of an accident. A bald statement such as "This area is to be used by children Under 8 only" is to be preferred.