



## Annual Playground Inspection – undertaken 23 November 2023

### Summary of Findings – 4 December 2023

On 23 November 2023 Inspector Richard Sewell (RPII Annual Inspector) from the Play Inspection Company inspected all five play areas within the Worplesdon parish. This is a summary of findings from all five reports. All sites were classified as Low Risk, and the report highlighted that continued monitoring and some minor maintenance is required.

With regard to site and equipment accessibility, the sites were classed as follows:

- Severely limited access (Worplesdon Memorial Hall Muga and Teenage area, Wood Street Village, Fairlands, Jacobs Well)
- Generally accessible; an area accessible to most (Worplesdon Memorial Hall Toddler area)

Some of our play equipment (notably swing bays) was installed some years ago, and since then recommendations have changed, leading to certain repeated findings.

### Fairlands Play Area

There is some tree debris on the surfacing – remove and maintain. The **safety surface** adjoining the edging surround has gaps opening - Monitor for any further deterioration and repair as required. The safety surface is also lifting at the edges and creating trip points – Repair perimeter of surfacing to remove trip points.

#### Access Gate from Field

The gate is closing too slowly (in excess of 8 seconds). Take action to ensure the gate closes between 4 and 8 seconds.

#### Swings - 1 Bay 2 Seat (Flat and Tango)

- 1) The chain openings are in excess of the 8.6mm as recommended by BS EN 1176 - Monitor – No remedial work recommended.
- 2) The swing seat connectors are loose – Tighten to secure.
- 3) There is some wear to the shackles – Monitor for any further deterioration and replace when 40% worn
- 4) The chain links are worn in excess of 50% and require renewing – Replace worn chains.
- 5) There is moderate damage to the surface – Repair the damaged areas of surfacing.

#### Swings - 1 Bay 2 Seat (Cradle)

- 1) The chain openings are in excess of the 8.6mm as recommended by BS EN 1176 - Monitor – No remedial work recommended.
- 2) There is some notable evidence of chain wear – Monitor for any further deterioration and replace when 40% worn.
- 3) There is some wear to the shackles – Monitor for any further deterioration and replace when 40% worn.

#### Rock Stack (Climbing rock)

- 1) The item has missing components (handholds) – consider replacing missing components. [N.B. These items are not missing – it is designed so handholds/grabs can be moved around]



## White House Lane, Jacobs Well Play Area

There is algae, silt, or moss growth on the surfacing resulting in slippery conditions – Clean and treat appropriately.

There is some tree debris on the surfacing – Remove and maintain.

There is a body of water or a water basin in close proximity to the playground. Risk assessment of this is a specialist field and outside the scope of our inspection – Contact our official water safety partner, the RLSS (Royal Life Saving Society) at [ww.rlss.org.uk](http://ww.rlss.org.uk) and/or ensure the appropriate risk assessment is in place. [Appropriate risk assessment is in place]

### Fence – Bow Top

- 1) There is some damage to the fence sections – Monitor for any further deterioration and repair as required.

### Basket swing

- 1) The surfacing dimensions are short and do not meet with the requirements of the current applicable standard. Monitor – no remedial action required.
- 2) The bushes are worn or missing – Replace worn or missing bushes.
- 3) There is some wear to the shackles – Monitor for any further deterioration and replace when 40% worn.

### Swing bay

- 1) The surface has subsided in some areas – Monitor for any further deterioration and repair as required.
- 2) There is algae or moss on the surface of the equipment – clean and treat appropriately.
- 3) The swing seat connectors are loose – tighten to secure.
- 4) The connecting links are in excess of 8.6mm and less than 12mm and fail the requirements of BS EN 1176 Part 1; clause 4.2.13. Chains – Monitor – No remedial work recommended.

### Play Panel

- 1) Area around the panels has eroded and may become slippery – Reinstated eroded area.

### Activity Equipment - Multi Play (Junior)

- 1) There are post/end caps missing from the item – Replace missing end caps.
- 2) There is/are bolt cap covers missing or damaged on the item – Replace missing or damaged bolt cap covers.
- 3) The surface has subsided in some areas – Monitor for any further deterioration and repair as required.
- 4) The timber has a number of splits/shakes or air cracks and this may affect the stability or allow water ingress which will accelerate the rotting process – Monitor to ensure the splits do not cross through fixing points of the structure and/or cause any instability.

## Wood Street Green Play Seat Area

- 1) It is recommended that information signs with emergency contact details are installed at each entrance/exit point to the playground - Provide in accordance with the recommendations set out in BS EN 1176.



### **Rocking Equipment - Three Way Springer**

- 1) There is some damage to the item – Monitor for any further deterioration and repair as required
- 2) There is algae, silt or moss growth on the surface resulting in slippery conditions – clean and treat appropriately.
- 3) There is some damage to the item (paint flaking off the metalwork)- Rub down and repaint as required.

## **Worplesdon Play Area**

- 1) There is some tree debris on the surfacing – Remove and maintain.

### **Fence – Bow Top**

- 1) There is some damage to the fence sections – Monitor for any further deterioration and repair as required.

### **Metal bench**

- 1) The surface beneath has eroded in some areas and may be slippery in wet conditions – Reinststate the surface.

### **Wooden bench**

- 1) Parts of the timber are rough or splintered – Remove all rough or sharp edges.
- 2) There are bolt cap covers missing or damaged on the item – Replace missing or damaged bolt cap covers.

### **Swings - 2 Bay (2 Flat, 1 Cradle and 1 Tango)**

- 1) The shackles are worn in excess of 40% and require renewing – Replace worn shackles.
- 2) The swing seat connectors are loose – Tighten to secure.
- 3) The bushes are showing signs of wear – Monitor for any further deterioration and replace as required.
- 4) The chain openings are in excess of 8.6mm as recommended by BS EN 1176 - Monitor – No remedial work recommended.

### **Rotor Play - Rotating Chairs**

- 1) Parts of the steel structure protrude beyond the protected elements of the seat and fail to meet the requirements of BS EN 1176 Part 5 – Monitor - no remedial action recommended.

## **Worplesdon Teen Area**

- 1) There is a redundant concrete base in the grass – Remove if not required. [The concrete base is believed to be leftover from when the knee-rail fencing was removed – responsibility of WMH Trustees]

### **Multi Use Games Area - Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)**

- 1) There is/are finger entrapments in the structure and the item fails to meet the requirements of BS EN 15312 Clause 4.4.2.2 Entrapment of fingers – Monitors – No remedial work recommended.
- 2) There is some damage to the item – Monitor for any further deterioration and repair as required.
- 3) The item fails to meet the requirements of BS EN 15312 4.4.2.1 head and neck entrapment in the structure – Monitor – No remedial work recommended.
- 4) The paint is flaking off the metalwork – Rub down and re-paint.



### **Bow-top fencing**

- 1) There is some damage to the fence sections – Monitor for any further deterioration and repair as required.

### **Picnic table**

- 1) The surface beneath has eroded in some areas and may be slippery in wet conditions – Reinststate the surface.
- 2) There is some evidence of fire damage to the item – Monitor for any further deterioration and repair as required.

### **Bench (green)**

- 1) The paint is flaking off the metalwork – Rub down and re-paint.

### **Swings - Basket Swing - Type 1**

- 1) The connecting links are in excess of 8.6mm and less than 12mm and fail the requirements of BS EN 1176: 2008 Part 1; clause 4.2.13, Chains - Monitor – No remedial work recommended.
- 2) The bushes are showing signs of wear – Monitor for any further deterioration and replace as required.
- 3) The ropes/nets are worn/damaged in places – Monitor for any further deterioration and repair or replace as required.
- 4) The seat has minor damage or wear – Monitor for any further deterioration and replace as required.
- 5) There is surface corrosion/rust present on the item – Consider treating the item.
- 6) There is some wear to the shackles – Monitor for any further deterioration and replace when 40% worn.

### **Rotor Play - Overhead Rotator [Typhoon] – N.B. Please be advised that a quote has been accepted on 1/12/22 for remedial works to be carried out**

- 1) The seat connection cannot be inspected without dismantling the seat – Dismantle the seat to inspect the seat connection for wear.
- 2) The seat suspension cover has been damaged – Monitor for any further deterioration and replace as required.
- 3) The fixings for this item were in excess of 2.5m above the standing surface and could not be fully accessed by the inspector. We have completed a visual inspection of the fixings from ground level, but a maintenance inspection should be undertaken to assess the security and wear of the components at intervals in accordance with the manufacturers recommendations – Inspect in accordance with the manufacturers recommendations.
- 4) This item of equipment relies on a single post, or a line of posts, for stability and extra care needs to be taken with equipment of this nature to avoid the potential for catastrophic failure – Ensure that regular detailed inspections are undertaken to assess for rot, corrosion and general stability.

### **Spinner Bowl**

- 1) There is some damage to the item – Monitor for any further deterioration and repair as required.

### **Spinning Pole - Yellow**

- 2) The surfacing dimensions are short and do not meet with the requirements of the current applicable standard – Monitor – no remedial action recommended.



## **Spinning Pole - Green**

- 1) The surfacing dimensions are short and do not meet with the requirements of the current applicable standard – Monitor – no remedial action recommended.