

This is my report to the Parish Council on the playground Annual Inspection Report.

The AIR reports on "risk" and makes general recommendations on reducing risk and on general maintenance of the site.

There are 4 categories of "risk":

LOW - which requires only monitoring

MEDIUM - which requires "appropriate action within resources and individual site assessment" (I am taking this to mean "if we can afford it, and subject to a more detailed assessment of the actual risk having regard to such local factors as frequency of use of the playground, age of users etc")

HIGH - which requires urgent action

UNACCEPTABLE RISK where there is a likelihood of major injury or death - where the Parish Clerk will be immediately notified (and the Clerk has confirmed she has not been)

We have no "high risk" issues.

A number of issues have been identified as "low" or "low/medium" risk, which Charlotte Chadwick and I will monitor.

There are a 6 medium risk issues. These are:

- a concern about "entrapment" at the hinge edges of both gates. I understand neither the concern here, nor the proposed action point (a gate stop), so I am proposing to ask the Inspector what he means;
- a trip hazard concern along the paths where there has been soil and grass erosion. There is in fact only a very small amount of erosion, in only two places, and so I am proposing to monitor this rather than take any action at present;
- a concern that there is a "desire line" through the proludic pod swing and a need to install barriers. Again, I don't understand the concern here and am proposing to ask the Inspector. This could potentially be expensive.
- a recommendation that the "protective surface" under the "trapeze" element of the Trail Blazer needs to be kept in good condition. We do not in fact have a protective surface: it is grass. So I am proposing to ignore this, as the Inspector does not say "replace the grass".
- a recommendation that we check to see if there is any wear in the pins holding the cradle swing to the frame. They look ok to me, but I will check properly, once I can undo the holding nuts.
- finally, a concern over the (to my mind) very slight uphill "gradient" at the edges of the

protective surface under the proludic pod swing. I think this is a very pedantic point and that in practice the gradient, so called, does not really present any significant tripping risk. Given that this piece of equipment was professionally installed very recently, I am proposing that we just monitor the situation.

Overall, the playground has been designated as "medium" risk.

Nigel Reid