

Minutes of Risk Assessment meeting 2nd July 2020

Present: Richard Bailey, John Goldsmith, Andy Daburn, Jan Robertson, Julie Devenish

Purpose: to determine the Parish Council's short-term strategy regarding the relaxation of the Covid-19 Lockdown rules which would allow children's playgrounds to re-open on or after 4th July if sufficient measures could ensure an acceptably low level of risk to users and operators.

Preparation: a number of documents were circulated in advance to the meeting participants, including a pro-forma Risk Assessment form designed to identify:

1. What are the hazards;
2. Who might be harmed;
3. The severity of the risk;
4. What measures are required to mitigate risk;
5. How these measures can be implemented in the context of Ivychurch Village Green.

Discussion: having studied the information provided by various bodies (HSE, Government, insurers, Playground Operational Associations, etc.), there was unanimous agreement that certain mitigation options would not be achievable at present. These included frequent cleansing of the equipment, provision of hand sanitisation stations, etc. The play equipment is made up of hard surfaces including plastic and metal, on which the Covid-19 virus is believed to survive up to 72 hours.

It was felt that responsible parents would not wish for their children to play on the equipment yet, so it was agreed to continue keeping the playground closed for now.

A notice will be displayed advising visitors of the current position, and meanwhile the actions of New Romney Town Council and other councils larger than Ivychurch will be monitored, which should help Ivychurch determine what measures prove successful and achievable.

Periodic inspections to ensure barriers and notices remain in place will be carried out while the playground is closed, and the situation will continue to be reviewed for any developments enabling a change of approach.

Actions:

1. Playground to remain closed and corresponding notices to be placed on Noticeboard and on play equipment. **(Jools)**
2. Periodic checks to ensure barriers and signs remain in place. **(ALL)**
3. Review situation regularly. **(ALL).**