

Prestbury Parish Council.

Playing Field and Barley Road Public Open Space (BRPOS) Risk Assessment 21 February 2022

Activity	Potential Hazards	Risks	Mitigation	Risk Level	Additional Measures
Driving Parish owned vehicles within the boundary of the Playing Field and Barley Road field.	Collision with the public, animals, buildings, or hedges as a result of equipment malfunction or driver error.	Potentially serious injury to both staff, the public and animals.	Ensure that all equipment is serviced according to the manufacturers schedule and that staff receive appropriate, documented training. Speed within the boundaries of the playing field restricted to 15 mph.	Low	Warning signs alerting the public to activity on the playing field.
Operating Parish owned equipment including tractors, lawn mowers, hedge cutters within the boundary of the Playing Fields	Risk of injury to operatives through malfunction of equipment or inappropriate use.	Malfunction or inappropriate use of the equipment exposes both the operative and the public to the risk of potentially serious injury.	Operatives must ensure that all equipment is functioning correctly and must not be used if a fault is identified. Operatives must also have been trained in the use of the equipment and given the necessary protective clothing.	Low	Warning signs alerting the public to activity on the playing field.

<p>Application of weed killer/pesticides.</p>	<p>Skin or eye contact and inhalation or ingestion may lead to serious reactions in both humans and animals.</p>	<p>Risk of adverse reaction following contact with the weed killer, to both humans and animals.</p>	<p>The use of weed killer should be carefully considered. Its application should be restricted. Warning notices should be posted, and staff given the appropriate level of protective equipment.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Staff should be given guidance as to actions to be taken in the event of a member of the public or an animal ingesting the weed killer or showing signs of a reaction to the weed killer. Advice should be sought from the manufacturer.</p>
<p>Seats on Playing Fields, Playground/Shelter, Barley Road Public Open Space</p>	<p>Seats are subject to weathering and vandalism making them increasingly unfit for purpose.</p>	<p>Minor injuries may result from a deterioration of the surface, but more serious injury may result from a failure of the seat.</p>	<p>Regular inspection of the seats and the rectification of damage. Seats that are deemed unsafe must be taken out of use.</p>	<p>Low</p>	

<p>Waste Bins/Dog Waste Bins/Fouling/Hazardous Waste.</p>	<p>Waste bins are subject to deterioration by weather and damage by visitors. Dog fouling is a result of. Inconsiderate owners not picking up their dog's faeces. Hazardous waste includes broken glass, needles, and discarded drugs.</p>	<p>The main risks arise from children coming into contact with canine faeces, with the potential to contract a number of serious infections. Equally serious is the potential for children to come across disused needles and drugs</p>	<p>The Groundsman regular visits every waste bin making it easier to identify bins that require remedial action. He is also conscientious when it comes to removing drug paraphernalia, and canine faeces.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	
<p>Trip hazard on pathways.</p>	<p>Trip injuries are common, and do not discriminate between staff and the public.</p>	<p>Trip injuries can happen anywhere. On the playing fields trip injuries can result from unseen obstacles on the pathways, uneven ground or the individual simple not looking where they are going. The extent of the injury can be from trivial to severe.</p>	<p>The Groundsman makes regular checks on all the paths ways, clearing away rubbish and check the integrity of the pathway.</p>	<p>Low</p>	

Boundary Fences	Wood and metal boundary fences are subject to weather deterioration and damage by visitors	Injuries to the public from fences is usually minor and results from falls against fences, More serious injuries are often the result of the public trying climb over or through fences.	Regular inspection by the Groundsman and a programme of proactive maintenance reduce the risks	Low	
Children's play area – ground surface.	The majority of the play area is covered by a synthetic honeycomb mat, that prevents injury when a child fall. In wet conditions, or when the matting is covered in leaves the surface can become slippery, increasing the risk of falls.	The nature of the floor covering mitigates against the risk of serious injury, but there is always the possibility of a child falling against a piece of equipment.	Regular cleaning of the matting, and the removal of leaves will significantly reduce the risk of falls.	Low	

<p>Children's play area equipment.</p>	<p>The very nature of the play equipment encourages children to explore the equipment through play. Minor injuries are inevitable.</p>	<p>Injuries normal result from boisterous play. Falls are rare, but the absorbent matting reduces the chance of injury.</p>	<p>The equipment is inspected regularly, and defects repaired. Parents should be encouraged to supervise their children to ensure safe play. In addition, Cheltenham Borough Council and the manufacturer carries out an annual inspection.</p>	<p>Low</p>	
<p>Adult sports – outside gym.</p>	<p>The four pieces of equipment are designed to provide aerobic, muscular and cardio-vascular exercise. Falls from the equipment are unlikely but the effects of over-exertion are a real possibility. As is physical injury.</p>	<p>Any equipment with moving parts has the potential to trap clothing and body parts resulting in injury. Over enthusiastic exercise by unfit members of the public does raise the possibility of compromising the cardio-vascular system.</p>	<p>Regular, documented inspection of the equipment will quickly identify faults or damage. If necessary, the equipment will be taken out of use until it has been repaired. Notices should warn users of the risk of excessive exercise.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Going forward I think the PPC should consider a defib. Close to the playing field.</p>

Signs	The structures are subject to deterioration by weather, vandalism, and accidents. The signs may even be stolen.	Injury to the public arising from collision with a sign, or in extreme cases a sign falling on them.	Regular inspection of signs, including the integrity of the surface and the soundness of the mounting. Remedial action to be taken when issues arise.	Low	
MUGA and tennis courts – may not attract anticipated bookings.	This represents a loss of anticipated income.	The loss of income compromises the staff development programme.	Assess the marketing campaign, the target audience, the offer, and the pricing structure.	Low	
MUGA and tennis court users may not pay rental.	Loss of income, also slot being used by a non-playing group.	Loss of income – see above.	Only users who have paid in advance receive MUGA and tennis court access codes.	Low	Users are penalised for sharing access codes.
Vandalism to any of the equipment on the sports field or Barley Road Public Open Space	Vandalism represents a financial loss to the Council, both in terms of rectifying the vandalism, but also loss of income from equipment rental.	Vandalism is associated with violence, with potential consequences for the vandals.	The Parish Council cannot be held responsible for injuries caused whilst vandals are committing violent acts, provided the equipment was not left in a dangerous state.	Medium	The use of CCTV will not necessarily prevent vandalism but may help in catching those responsible.

<p>Misuse of car park.</p>	<p>The car park is in a secluded location which makes it attractive to drug dealers, and people wishing to dump cars for whatever reason.</p>	<p>The Playing Fields Management Plan defines how the car will be used and defines the security arrangements.</p>	<p>Regular inspection and litter picking will be a task for the Groundsman, as will the identification of any evidence to indicate drug dealing. Regular contact with the local Police will be essential. Signage, re respect to neighbours and a PPC Disclaimer. Application for PCS grant to cover cost of security lighting.</p>	<p>Low</p>	
<p>Noise from playing facilities.</p>	<p>Increasing the number of facilities on the playing fields is going to attract more users, and more users means more noise.</p>	<p>Noise arises from two sources – the participants and the equipment. It is unreasonable to request that children play quietly. However, action can be taken to ensure that the equipment does not contribute significantly to the noise.</p>	<p>Regular inspection of the equipment to ensure its integrity, and to repair any element that is causing additional noise.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	

Sensory Garden	Dangerous, vandalised or otherwise damaged sensory garden components	Risk of injury to users and animals	Sensory Garden components procured and installed to a safe standard as per contract. Regular inspection by the Groundsman and a programme of proactive maintenance reduce the risks.	Low	
Sensory Garden	Vandalism or misuse of sensory garden components	Risk of closure of the facility to the public.	Regular inspection by the Groundsman and a programme of proactive maintenance reduce the risks.	Low	Signs forbidding climbing on Sensory Garden components
MUGA accessed by unauthorised individuals	People climbing over the fencing around the MUGA to access it, bypassing gate with coded locks.	Risk of injury to individuals falling from height. Spikes have been installed to the top of the fencing and anti-climb paint applied to the top of the fencing to act as a deterrent.	Risk of injury from spikes is mitigated by installation of warning signs around the MUGA to warn of their presence. Anti-climb paint warning signs also in place.	Low	Ongoing review of security / unauthorised access prevention measures to assess effectiveness.