

Malmesbury Town Council
Town Hall and Facilities Committee meeting 15.7.20
Report No.2 Re-Opening of the Play Areas

1. The Government announced play areas could re-open from the 4th July.
2. Pressure washing has been booked to clean all areas and is scheduled for week beginning 13th July; except for Filands where the contractors considered doing so would cause the play equipment to splinter due to the age and condition of the apparatus.
3. This raises the matter if the Council should be considering the instalment of new play equipment in Filands.
4. A Covid 19 specific risk assessment has been completed which bases itself around the four essential points;
 - The need to observe social distancing
 - The need to wash hands before and after use
 - The exercising of parental supervision and responsibility
 - The exercising of personal responsibility
 - The use of signage displayed to reinforce this message.
5. It should be noted ongoing enhanced cleaning regimes have not be adopted as part of the Risk Management response. This judgement is based on the fact all play areas can be accessed at any time in multiple ways. As transmission could occur between cleans, and in any time window, and based on the information and guidance, it is hard to fully assess the necessary frequency of any cleaning regime to ensure 'Covid Free 'play equipment.
6. If a cleaning regime of cleaning all play areas at least once a day was adopted this would cost in the region of £25,000 - £30,000 per annum (based on a 5 hourly a day / 7 day a week scheme), which arguable is an ineffectual use of funds. I.e. there is little or no guarantee this would help protect those using the play areas.
7. Therefore a 'personal responsibility 'approach has been adopted as a surer way of people managing any Covid 19 risk.
8. The Committee are asked to;
 - note the position adopted in respect of the Risk Assessment, confirm its support for this or advise the Town Clerk accordingly in respect of any amendments.
 - consider the matter of the possible replacement of Filands Play equipment.

Richard Spencer- Williams – Town Clerk