



# LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

## Grounds and Environmental Services Committee

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**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019

**Title:** RoSPA Play Areas Inspection Review

**Purpose of the Report:** To provide Members with an update and findings from this year's annual independent playground and equipment inspections.

**Contact Officer:** Ian Haynes – Head of Grounds and Environmental Services

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<b>Corporate Objective/s</b>	<b>LLTC Three Year Plan – Aim 3.</b>  <i>“To provide great public open spaces, varied opportunities for sport and leisure and to exceed expectations in delivering cemetery and allotment services”</i>	
<b>Implications:</b>		
<b>Financial</b>	√	Within existing budget
<b>Human Resources</b>		None
<b>Operational/Service delivery</b>		None
<b>Procedural/Legal</b>	√	It is a legal requirement under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 for the operator of playgrounds to have undertaken a risk assessment both for risks to any staff employed on the area but also the risk to the user
<b>Risk/Health and Safety</b>	√	All of the associated costs to undertake the necessary repairs will be covered under existing revenue budgets.

### 1. RECOMMENDATION

Should members be minded, the proposals is:

**1.1 To note the report.**

**2. BACKGROUND**

2.1 In May 2019, our yearly independent safety assessment of our playgrounds and equipment was produced for RoSPA by PlaySafety Limited.

2.2 The British and European safety standard BS EN1176 and the Health and Safety Executive strongly recommend that all play areas have at least one inspection every year from an independent suitably qualified body such as RoSPA.

**3. CONSIDERATIONS**

3.1 The independent safety assessment of our playgrounds and equipment provides each site with its own overall risk rating, the following ratings have been identified:-

3.2 A risk assessment of faults and Standard failures is given in terms of low, medium and high. As a general principle items marked as “low” only require monitoring. Items marked as “medium” require appropriate action within resources and individual site assessment. Items marked as “high” require urgent action. In rare cases where an item is likely to result in major injury or death, the operator or appropriate representative will be notified from the site by telephone. This will be indicated on the report.

3.3 RoSPA risk scores come in the following bands:

- 1 to 3 Very Low Risk
- 4 to 7 Low Risk
- 8 to 12 Medium Risk
- 13 to 20 High Risk
- 21+ Unacceptably High Risk

3.4 It should be noted that due to the increased risk posed by some of the Town Council assets - such as the skate park and the BMX tracks - the risk scores cannot be lowered.

Site Name	Overall risk rating for the play space
Adams Bottom	Medium
Alwins Field	Medium
Astral Park & Outdoor Gym	Medium
Danes Field - BMX	High
Danes Field	Medium
Derwent Road	Medium

Dimmock Close	Medium
Draper Way	Low
Johnson Drive	Low
Linslade Recreation Ground	Medium
Mentmore Park - Junior	Medium
Mentmore Park - Toddler	Medium
Mentmore Park - MUGA	Medium
Mill Road	Medium
Nicolson Drive	Medium/Low
Pages Park – Outdoor Gym	Medium
Pages Park	Medium
Parson's Close Recreation Ground	High / Medium
Parson's Close - Skatepark	High
Parson's Close Beach	Low
Parson's Close - Splash 'n' Play	Medium
Ridley Drive	Low
Vandyke Playing Fields – BMX	High
Vandyke Playing Fields	Medium
Vimy Road	Medium
Western Avenue	Medium

#### 4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Each of the independent safety assessments of our playgrounds and equipment have been reviewed and a bespoke programme of works will be established in order to complete all of the necessary recommendations.

**Please note some recommendations will not be completed based on the level of expenditure required to minimise the risk.**

- 4.2 All of the associated costs to undertake the necessary repairs will be covered under existing revenue budgets.

#### 5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 Children's Playgrounds should be inspected annually by an independent specialist to ensure the long-term safety of the site, equipment and ancillary items. This will also meet legal and insurance responsibilities as well as complying with the requirements of EN1176.
- 5.2 In doing so this Council has met its legal and moral obligations to ensure our play areas are fit for use.