

8th July 2020

Re-opening of public playgrounds in England on 4 July 2020

On Tuesday 23 June 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced the next stage of the relaxation of lockdown restrictions which included the re-opening of public playgrounds in England on 4 July 2020. On Friday 26 June 2020 the Government published its guidance for managing playgrounds and outdoor gyms

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms>).

The government public health guidelines are a considerable challenge to Bean Parish Council and advice was sought from National Association of Local Councils (NALC), Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC), Public Health England (PHE) and Play Inspection on how these guidelines could be met.

Association of Play Industries (API) believe that some of the language used within the guidance would be better changed to reflect the true intent. It is their view that there are two fundamental points:

1. The need for a COVID-19 Risk Assessment (RA) approach is an absolute requirement. However, the RA must consider the practicalities of operating an open use play or fitness facility. The outputs and conclusions of the RA remain the responsibility of the operator.
2. The guidance is not mandatory, and it is for each operator to make their own judgements on what is practical to implement whilst keeping the risk to a minimum.

It is not feasible for Bean Parish Council to provide the following:

- Provision of Stewards
- Arrange a booking system
- Relocate equipment for social distancing
- Clean equipment daily
- Provide cleaning equipment
- Create entrance and exits – we only have one pedestrian entrance gate

Bean Parish Council will carry out the following in relation to the re-opening of Play Areas and Open-Air Gyms:

1. Carry out Risk Assessments including COVID-19 risks
2. Prior to opening carry out safety checks
3. Prior to opening arrange repairs where necessary
4. Produce signage to include the following

Toddler Area COVID-19

Scientific advice suggests that the COVID-19 virus can survive for up to several days on some hard surfaces. The risks are reduced when outdoors, where surfaces may be subject to UV light and/or rain. **Whilst all possible practical measures have been put in place the users of the equipment in this recreation area do so at their own choice and risk.**

- Under three years only in toddler area
- One family member to accompany one child
- A maximum of three children and respective adult at any one time
- Wait at a distance until others have finished using the equipment
- Avoid using benches that are already in use
- Please retain 1m distance from other users e.g. pushing swings

- Use of hand sanitiser gel or wipes is advised before, during and after using the equipment (users are responsible for providing own sanitiser)
- When using equipment do not touch face
- Consumption of food and drink within play areas is not permitted
- Please use the bins provided or take litter home

We would also encourage you or any child in your care to:

- not touch your face
- cough/sneeze into a tissue then sanitise your hands
- not to put your mouth on any equipment or put your hands in your mouth

Wash your hands thoroughly when you get home

Please be patient and kind. We all deserve to play safely.

Multi-play Junior Climbing Frame COVID-19

Scientific advice suggests that the COVID-19 virus can survive for up to several days on some hard surfaces. The risks are reduced when outdoors, where surfaces may be subject to UV light and/or rain. **Whilst all possible practical measures have been put in place the users of the equipment in this recreation area do so at their own choice and risk.**

- Under 14 years only in large play area
- One family member to accompany one child
- One child only on each section of the climbing frame
- Wait at a distance until others have finished using the equipment
- Avoid using benches that are already in use
- Use of hand sanitiser gel or wipes is advised before, during and after using the equipment (users are responsible for providing own sanitiser)
- When using equipment do not touch face
- Consumption of food and drink within play areas is not permitted
- Please use the bins provided or take litter home

We would also encourage you or any child in your care to:

- not touch your face
- cough/sneeze into a tissue then sanitise your hands
- not to put your mouth on any equipment or put your hands in your mouth

Wash your hands thoroughly when you get home

Please be patient and kind. We all deserve to play safely.

Outdoor Gym COVID-19

Scientific advice suggests that the COVID-19 virus can survive for up to several days on some hard surfaces. The risks are reduced when outdoors, where surfaces may be subject to UV light and/or rain. **Whilst all possible practical measures have been put in place the users of the equipment in this recreation area do so at their own choice and risk.**

- Outdoor Gym users are encouraged to bring their own towel and hygiene products to wipe down equipment – please dispose of considerately
- Wait at a distance until others have finished using the equipment
- Do not use taped off equipment or remove the tape
- Avoid using benches that are already in use
- Use of hand sanitiser gel or wipes is advised before, during and after using the equipment (users are responsible for providing own sanitiser)
- When using equipment do not touch face

- Consumption of food and drink within Outdoor Gym areas is not permitted
- Please use the bins provided or take litter home

We would also encourage you or any child in your care to:

- not touch your face
- cough/sneeze into a tissue then sanitise your hands
- not to put your mouth on any equipment or put your hands in your mouth

Wash your hands thoroughly when you get home

Please be patient and kind. We all deserve to play safely.

Signage on the gates will also include

- **Please do not remove hazard tape or notices placed within the Recreation Ground. Removal of these items may result in the closure of the Recreation Ground.**

The following signage will also be displayed



On 8th July 2020 the Parish Council approved the Risk Assessments and signage for the Recreation Ground. Councillors were also advised that an inspection of the site and equipment had taken place by Play Inspection on 7th July 2020 and that their verbal report confirmed that there were no areas of concern with the equipment and that the recreation ground was safe to open subject to the correct signage regarding COVID-19 being in place.

The Parish Council agreed that the appropriate signage be displayed and the Recreation Ground be re-opened to the public on Thursday 9th July 2020.

JS Becket
Clerk to Bean Parish Council