

Bar Hill Parish Council

Playground Risk Management Policy

Introduction

This policy has been written to formally recognise the maintenance and inspection regime of Bar Hill Parish Council's recreational facilities and assets within these facilities. The policy will outline the legal responsibilities of the authority and how Bar Hill Parish Council will meet these responsibilities through a system of inspection, assessing risk and responses to faults and risks. Play areas by their very nature should provide a degree of risk and challenges for the users. This policy will therefore summarise Bar Hill Parish Council's objectives in providing challenging play while identifying an acceptable degree of risk.

Legal Requirements

There is no specific legislation on play safety. However, the key legislation is the:

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

Management of Health and Safety at Work Act 1992

Occupiers Liability Act 1957 and 1984

Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

Bar Hill Parish Council have a duty of care to take actions to ensure the safety of people at work and members of the public who may be affected by the facilities provided. It is governed by the test of "reasonable practicability". In other words, it is reasonable to correct major hazards, it is unreasonable to spend considerable resources on minor faults where risk is negligible and potential injury very minor.

Industry Standards and Guidance

These standards and Safety Guidelines are not legal requirements but are considered good professional working practices.

EN1176 – Playground Equipment

EN1176 is the European Standard which replaced the old British Standards. The standard is not retrospective and provides advice on design layout and inspection of playground equipment. Contained within the guidance are the following key recommendations:

That if the equipment is not safe, access by the public should be prevented

The equipment must be inspected and maintained

An inspection record should be kept for 21 years

Civil Legislation

In the event of a serious accident, claims are based on negligence: that is, the Parish Council took or failed to take some action which made the accident more likely to happen or made worse than would otherwise have been the case. The defence will be based on Bar Hill Parish Councils Play Risk Management evidence such as records of inspections and maintenance, compliance with the Standards and relevant risk assessments.

Balancing Risks and Benefits

Bar Hill Parish Councils risk management approach will aim to offer play spaces that are stimulating and challenging environments enabling children to explore and develop their abilities. In providing these environments Bar Hill Parish Council will manage the level of risk so that children are not exposed to unacceptable risks and hazards.

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Playground Inspection Methodology

Bar Hill Parish Council is responsible for recreational areas that will adhere to the guidance set out in this document. The areas include:

Main Play Area
Jubilee Park
AB Frame
Red Roundabout
Igloo
B Frame
Trim Trail

The responsibility for the operational regular inspections of the play areas in Bar Hill will be carried out by a dedicated playground inspector. This section will identify Bar Hill Parish Council's methodology in managing the authority's assets following:

Inspections Frequency and Type
Inspection Type Definitions
Assessing the Level of Risk
Summary of Risks

Inspection Frequency and Type

The table below details the frequency of inspections and inspector responsible for carrying out the on-site inspections. The inspector and frequency rates are currently feasible given resources available to Bar Hill Parish Council

Frequency of Inspection	Inspection Type	Inspector
Weekly	Visual Operational	Play Inspector
Annually	Annual Detailed	RoSPA

All inspections will be carried out using the relevant form which will then be supplied to the Clerk to bring to the attention of the Council.

Routine Visual Inspections – EN1176-7.6.2a – Look and See

This includes the identification of obvious hazards resulting from use, weather and vandalism, broken parts or bottles, litter, graffiti and equipment misuse. Obvious hazards as described above will be reported to the Clerk.

Operational Inspections – EN1176-7.6.2b – Poke and Prod

Operational inspections provide a more detailed inspection to check the operation and stability of all the equipment and surfaces especially for wear. These include:

Checking repairs carried out by others; rust and rot; bearing
Cleanliness
Equipment ground clearance
Sharp Edges
Missing Parts
Excessive wear (of moving parts)
Structural integrity

Annual Main Inspection – EN1176-7.6.2c

These inspections will be carried out approximately every 12 months, not exceeding 15 months. They include the overall safety of equipment, foundations and surfaces, the effects of weather, evidence of rotting or corrosion and any changes in the levels of safety as a result of repairs made or added or replacement components.

The annual inspections are to be carried out by an independent inspector/contractor. Operation and annual inspections, whether carried out by the Council or contractor working on behalf of the authority will be recorded using the same method and system.