

# VILLAGE RECREATION GROUND

## IMPORTANT NEWS

The wooden-framed play equipment in the Recreation Ground was installed in the 1980s and is now over thirty years old. As with all wooden structures open to the elements it has suffered increasing decay in recent years, to the extent that in 2018 the Parish Council found it necessary to remove part of the “Multiplay Fort” in the junior play area because it had decayed beyond economic repair.



Every year the Parish Council arranges for an inspection of all its equipment in the Recreation Ground by an appropriately qualified independent inspector, and the Parish Council considered this year’s comprehensive report at its meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

As expected the report has highlighted the fact that the majority of the existing wooden structures have reached the end of their life. The inspector has therefore recommended that urgent action should be taken to remove them, for reasons of public safety.

It would be foolish for the Parish Council to ignore this recommendation, and so it has been decided to act upon it without further delay. However since the work involved in taking the equipment down and removing it off site does not require any specialist expertise a number of Councillors have volunteered to form a working party to carry out the work themselves, at no expense to the Council. It is planned to start the process next Saturday morning (12<sup>th</sup> September).



Looking to the longer term the Council is working on plans to install some new play equipment, with the aid of a substantial grant from the South Northamptonshire Council’s “New Homes Bonus Fund”. Unfortunately these plans are currently “on hold” owing to circumstances which are outside of the Parish Council’s control.

The recent vandalism to the skateboard ramps has been reported to the Police as an incident of Criminal Damage, and is currently the subject of an insurance claim.

Yardley Hastings Parish Council

9<sup>th</sup> September 2020

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