

Report to the Community Assets and Open Spaces Committee meeting to be held on 8th October 2025

Annual Play Area Safety Inspection 2025

To note:

- The Annual Play Area Safety Inspection Reports have been received from The Play Inspection Company Ltd. Any work required will be planned into the day-to-day work of the Grounds Team and the Grounds Team Manager will use an auditor to ensure that all advice and actions are followed up.
- All play areas have been assessed as low risk, and all items of equipment have been assessed as low risk or very low risk, other than Maunsell Way play area where the Typhoon has been assessed as MODERATE risk, meaning the play area there has also been assessed as MODERATE risk.
- The Grounds Team Manager has advised that the Typhoon is very difficult to inspect as it is so high, it requires the use of a ladder. The chains wear out more quickly as children tend to throw the seat over the top bar, which wears the metal, and means the Grounds Team must use a ladder again to pull it back over.
- The Grounds Team Manager recommends that the Typhoon is removed as soon as possible and asks that Members support his recommendation to replace it with a shorter piece of play equipment which is easier and safer to inspect and maintain.
- Weir Field spinner: The Grounds Team took this apart 6 months ago. Many of the parts, including the ball bearings, have disintegrated. It is difficult to replace bearings as the Grounds Team do not have a bearing to find a replacement (in order to check they would fit). In addition, they would then need to find a company to press the bearings into the unit. The Grounds Team Manager therefore recommends the Spinner is replaced with a new, similar piece of equipment.
- Photos of both pieces of equipment will follow.

Recommendations:

- **The Committee consider supporting the recommendation to remove the Typhoon at Maunsell Way play area as soon as possible and that the Projects & Community Events Officer investigates a new replacement with a shorter piece of equipment which would be easier and safer to inspect and maintain.**
- **The Committee considers supporting the recommendation to replace the Weir Field Spinner with a new, similar piece of equipment.**
- **The options for the new pieces of equipment would be considered by the Play Area Working Party and their recommendations would be brought to a future committee meeting.**