

SWINGFIELD REPORT (2022)

Syresham Swingfield is located in the centre of the village on a piece of land which is leased by the Parish Council from the George Timms Charity Trust. The Parish Council aim to provide a safe and interesting play area, within well managed grounds, for the younger members of the community. Monthly inspections are carried out by all parish councillors on a rota basis, and every 3rd month by two councillors who have attended a course on safety and maintenance in playgrounds. This involves checking not only the play equipment itself but also the condition of fences, condition of trees, length of grass, signs of misuse of play equipment, condition of signs and safety notices and the general appearance of the site. An annual inspection of play equipment, as legally required, is carried out by ROSPA, with any recommendations being reported to, and implemented by, the Parish Council.

The 2018 ROSPA report highlighted the fact that several of the wooden structures were showing signs of rot and gave a remaining life expectancy of approx. 30 months. Anybody now using the Swingfield will have noticed that new play equipment has been installed. This includes an inclusive round-about, a slide, a rope climbing frame and bridge and a good selection of pre-school equipment for the younger users. Existing non-wooden play equipment has been relocated within the site to provide separation for differing age group users. This new equipment, and the safe feeling of the Swingfield has drawn in not only children from Syresham but also the surrounding area with picnics on the benches becoming more popular. With this increased usage in mind it was decided that an additional litter bin be purchased and positioned in the far end of the park. Other work carried out this year included the grinding down of 2x tree stumps to create a more level surface and the annual spring clean of equipment by parish councillors and members of the public.

The Parish Council are now in the early stages of considering ideas for a piece of equipment to replace the climbing tower – the only remaining wooden structure, and this will hopefully be carried out shortly. Other work planned for this year includes improvement to the surface water run-off through the Swingfield, with a possibility of the installation of new drainage ducting to facilitate this. The fencing between the Swingfield and the far drainage ditch is to be replaced with green metal fencing to match the front, this will greatly reduce future maintenance and provide a safer area in which to play.

There is, fortunately very rarely, evidence of deliberate misuse of the play equipment. We would ask all users to take notice of any warning signs around items of equipment. Anyone noticing suspicious behaviour in the Swingfield should contact the local police and report any damage to our Parish Clerk.

Cllr David Green