

## **SURVEY OF CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS**

The following observations are based on our personal opinions and are not in any way based on knowledge or expertise in the competence, function or design of play equipment.  
The lists may not be comprehensive.

### **OAKEN GROVE PARK**

In general, the fenced-off grassed play area is quite muddy with bare patches.

The rubbish bins contained the remains of rotten food. How often are they emptied?  
The green metal benches to the left of the entrance need repainting.

At the northern side entrance there are puddles of water and mud (Fig.1a,b)

There is a fenced-off, no entry section within the play area. For new equipment or a sandpit? (Fig.2)

#### **Equipment:**

Metal activity frame:

This is rusting and needs repainting (Fig.3a,b)

The blue plastic covering to the twisted wire rope rigging is badly worn leaving the metal exposed. It needs replacing (Fig.3c)

Fixed silver metal ball: this is indented (kicked in?) (Fig.4a,b)

Rope swing:

The rope itself is becoming worn and frayed. Underneath the swing, it might be beneficial to put wood shavings on top of the existing rubber matting, as this is hollowed out and muddy in places (Fig.5a,b,c)

Basket ball frame:

Should this have a net? (Fig.6)

Rubberised trampoline:

This is a good idea, but is the concrete surround safe? Should it be rubberised?

The area surrounding the trampoline is muddy with puddles of water (Fig.7a,b)

Rotating swing:

The swinging seat has been set on fire, leaving fire damage and a hole – needs replacing (Fig.8a,b,c)

The rubber covering to 2 hanging chains is fraying and needs replacing (Fig.8d,e)

Zip wire:

The ramp and yellow railings need repainting (Fig.9a,b,c)

Yellow and silver metal posts need repainting (Fig.10a,b)

Swing:

The red paint needs renewing (Fig.11a,b)

Large multi-activity frame (Fig.12a):

Needs repainting (Fig.12b)

Bare metal cords are exposed where the plastic covering has worn away (Fig.12c,d)

Some chain links are rusting (Fig.12e)

Hanging straps are frayed (Fig.12f)

Exposed bolts in end panel – protective covers broken or missing (Fig.12g)

**Conclusion:**

A rigorous safety examination of all equipment is recommended to ensure that it is safe and fit for purpose. Some of the equipment would benefit from a repaint. The ground underfoot needs attention.

## OAKEN GROVE PARK PLAY EQUIPMENT



Fig.1(a). Northern side entrance.



Fig.1(b). Northern side



Fig.2. Fenced-off area.



Fig.3(a). Activity frame.



Fig.3(b). Activity frame.



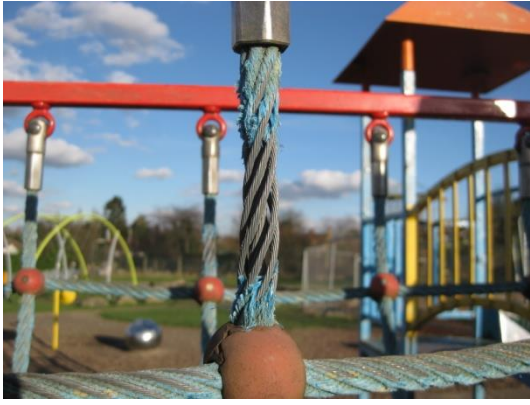


Fig.3(c). Worn wire rope.



Fig.4(a). Metal ball.



Fig.4(b). Metal ball.



Fig.5(a). Rope swing.



Fig.5(b). Fraying rope.





Fig.6. Basket ball frame.



Fig.5(c). Fraying rope.



Fig.7(a). Trampoline.



Fig.7(b). Trampoline.



Fig.8(a). Rotating swing.  
seat.



Fig.8(b). Swinging  
seat.



Fig.8(c). Swinging seat.



Fig.8(d). Rubber-covered hanging chain.



Fig.8(e). Frayed cover to chain.



Fig.9(a). Zip wire.



Fig.9(b). Ramp to zip wire.





Fig.9(c). Zip wire platform.



Fig.10(a). Metal posts.



Fig.10(b). Metal posts.



Fig.11(a). Red swing.



Fig.11(b). Red swing.



Fig.12(a). Large multi-activity frame.



Fig.12(b). Paintwork.

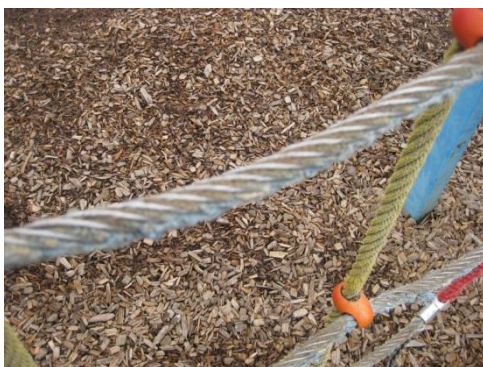


Fig.12(c,d). Exposed metal cords.





Fig.12(e). Rusty chain.



Fig.12(f). Hanging straps.



Fig.12(g). End panel with bolts.