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[www.southhams.gov.uk](http://www.southhams.gov.uk)



**South Hams**  
District Council

Stoke Gabriel Parish Council  
c/o Karen Gilbert

Our ref: NER/P&G/Play  
areas20  
5<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parish/Town Council

### **Play Area Agreement; The Orchard – Stoke Gabriel**

An invoice for 2020/2021 Play Area inspections will be sent to you shortly, which relates to the service provided by South Hams District Council to inspect and insure the above play area.

The current service which is subsidised by South Hams District Council includes: Public Liability Insurance in respect of the play equipment and safety surfacing, monthly inspections by qualified South Hams District Council Mobile Locality Officers, plus an annual engineering report (currently by Allianz). It is noted that for the vast majority of play areas, the cost of £210 + VAT per play area does not cover the cost of the Allianz inspection, without taking into account the other services included in this cost, so this remains a heavily subsidised service.

The previous Play Area Agreement which you will have previously signed had not been updated since its first use in 2010. Accordingly the Agreement did not reflect the actual service being provided and an update was overdue. Please find attached the updated Agreement which I would be grateful if you could sign and return by email (preferably by 21<sup>st</sup> August 2020) to [parks@swdevon.gov.uk](mailto:parks@swdevon.gov.uk) should you wish to continue with the service.

The main changes are:

- A clear annual start and end date for renewals
- Clarity over the scope of the inspection service, including reference to curtesy reports relating to defects with fencing/gates/furniture.
- Commitment by the District Council to sending copies by email of all monthly inspection reports (responding to wishes of many Parish Councils), whilst still highlighting those inspections which record a defect.
- Commitment by the District Council to sending copies of the annual engineering report as soon as reasonable possible after it has been undertaken.
- Clarity over the expectations of the Site Owner to resolve defects, and setting out implications of failure to resolve in a timely or appropriate manner (namely forfeiting of insurance cover and termination of the Agreement).
- Deletion of reference to the historic service whereby the District Council would undertake repairs of under £20 itself. This results to staff changes around 5 years ago, at which point the District Officer qualified to undertake this service took on a new role.
- Clarity over expectations if defects are recorded.
- Reference to requirement for a Post Installation Inspection Report if any new equipment/surfacing is installed (reflecting insurance requirements).
- Removal of the free signage service.

Should your organisation wish to do so, you have the option of making your own inspection and insurance arrangements for 2020/21. Please inform us if you do wish to make your own arrangements by 21<sup>st</sup> August 2020, after which date invoices will be sent to Site Owner organisations.

If you have any queries relating to this service please email [parks@swdevon.gov.uk](mailto:parks@swdevon.gov.uk) .

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Sekula', written in a cursive style.

**Rob Sekula**  
**Senior Specialist – Natural Resources and Green Infrastructure**

Attached – Play Area Agreement 2020 (for signing and return by email)