

Over the past year, I have aimed to make sure that the local park and surrounding area is a safe place for children and parents to enjoy. I picked up litter in the local area and disposed of it to keep the park clean, and to reduce the pollution which may have been affecting the ecosystem. I also made sure that the equipment was in working order and that nothing was broken. Whilst I failed to notice damage to some play equipment, since it was brought to my attention, my inspections became even more thorough than before. From my time inspecting the area, a few improvements that I believe could benefit the park include changing the flooring of the park, deep cleaning/replacement the swings, and replacement of the rope on the multi-play. Whilst this may be out of budget, complaints about the static shock from the flooring lead me to look at ways to prevent this which brought me to find "conductive infill". For example, anti-silica sand or cork could prevent/ reduce the frequency of this happening. Some of the park equipment is also particularly filthy, which should be cleaned for hygiene purposes. As well as that, the climbing rope net is particularly frayed at the bottom which in some time, may become unsafe to play on - this may need to be replaced. Finally, the litter produced each week is rather abundant - often being food wrappers and outside of the park, cigarettes. Whilst this is being maintained by the park assessors and I, the litter produced may be reduced by putting up awareness signs. I feel that after picking up litter in the area each week, the park felt like a more enjoyable environment and safer for wildlife too. Overall, I learned to have better organisational skills over the course of the year and helped me to realise keeping areas tidy and clean make the world a better place for both humans and animals. I am incredibly grateful to the village hall and the Parish council for organising this opportunity and appreciate their efforts to constantly improve the village. Thank you,

Sophia Little