

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
REPORT**

To: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE	Subject: PETITION – CONDITION OF PLAY AREA ON DORNOCH ROAD, HOLYTOWN
From: HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT AND ESTATES	
Date: 28 October 2014 Ref: GD/AM ^C G	

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise committee on the response to the petition presented on 23 July 2014 from residents of Holytown who complained about the condition of the equipped children's play area at Dornoch Road.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The 197 petitioners are requesting that the council give consideration to the implementation of a programme of maintenance work at Dornoch Road play area.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 A maintenance schedule currently exists for all equipped children's play areas within North Lanarkshire Council. This schedule includes a visual inspection which is delivered by in house staff and the majority of play areas receive an inspection once per week, the Dornoch Road site falls into this category.
- 3.2 The visual inspection involves checking play equipment, safety surfacing, dog grids, access gates, perimeter fencing, litter bins and signage.
- 3.3 Any defect which is found during these inspections is recorded and forwarded to a maintenance team for repair or the item of equipment replaced if funding allows.
- 3.4 Litter is removed from the play area surfaces during these inspections and the litter bins emptied. Additional litter picking is carried out by street cleaning staff as part of their route.
- 3.5 An annual independent risk assessment is carried out and a report produced which assists in both the maintenance and the strategic planning of play. Learning and Leisure lead on strategic matters related to such play areas.
- 3.6 Equipped children's play areas can become the focus of anti social behaviour and often this is evidenced by vandalism such as graffiti, smashed glass and burning of safety surfaces. The Dornoch Road site suffers from vandalism.

4. ACTIONS

- 4.1 A site specific risk assessment for play area users will be carried out at Dornoch Road play area and the service will implement the outcome.

4.2 Graffiti at this site was removed and bearings were replaced on one item of equipment. The safety matting has been repaired several times.

4.3 Discussion will take place with local police to try to reduce vandalism.

5. **RECOMMENDATION**

5.1 Committee note the content of this report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kenneth Wilson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kenneth Wilson

Head of Environment & Estates

Local Government Access to Information Act: for further information about this report please contact Kenneth Wilson, Head of Environment & Estates (01236 616407).