

This report will be made
Public on 6 January 2023

Hythe Town Council

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Report number **F&GP/25/22**

To Hythe Town Council

Date 15 December 2022

Status **Non Exempt**

Responsible officer **Town Clerk**

Subject **INSTALLATION OF NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT REPORT
F&GP/25/22**

SUMMARY: This report provides information on the proposed installation of new play equipment at Eaton Lands Playing Field, Burmarsh Recreation Ground, Reachfields, Peregrine Close and St George's Place.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee is asked to agree the recommendations set out below because:-

- a) The Council is committed to control and manage its financial affairs in accordance with The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) guidelines.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To receive and note the report F&GP/25/22.
2. To choose either Option A, B or C on each of the playground sites.
3. To install the Play Equipment options set out below at Eaton Lands Playing Field, Burmarsh Recreation Ground, Reachfields, Peregrine Close and St George's Place
4. To vire the cost of the agreed expenditure from CIL Reserves to Budget code CIL Expenditure.
5. To vire the cost of St George's Place replacement play equipment from Playground Equipment Maintenance Reserve to Playground Equipment Maintenance budget code

1.INTRODUCTION

The Good Practice Guide states that “All children do not need to access play spaces in the same way, but they are fundamentally entitled to go out to play. Good design of public play spaces is needed to make this possible. Each child is different - not every piece of equipment in a play space needs to be accessible to every child but access to the social experience of play is key.”

It is important for the Council to recognise the importance of outdoor play when it comes to the impact it has on early years development. Not only does it act as an integral part of a child's learning opportunities, but it can significantly benefit children's mental and physical health and wellbeing.

Spending time outdoors can have a positive impact on both mental and physical health at any age, so it's important that we encourage it from a young age.

1.1 Purpose of Outdoor Play

There are two fundamental reasons why outdoor play is critical for young children in their early childhood. First, many of the developmental tasks that children must achieve such as exploring, risk-taking and the absorption of vast amounts of basic knowledge can be most effectively learned through outdoor play. Second, our culture is taking outdoor play away from young children through excessive TV and computer use, busy and tired parents.

Being outside is an exciting sensory experience for babies, toddlers and young children. They will enjoy the exciting visuals on offer as families and friends play in lands owned by the Council.

Families and friends will be encouraged to use public green spaces regularly and reconnect with nature.

1.2 Public Consultation

The Finance and Projects Officer has provided three different versions of play equipment taken to a public consultation held at Oaklands Council Office on Monday 14 November to Monday 12 December 2022 during office hours. The consultation was also held on the Council website, members of the public who did not want to visit the office could vote for their favourite play equipment for each playground site via their electronic device.

The local primary schools were contacted so the young students could vote for their favourite play equipment for the five listed playgrounds.

Consultation posters were placed on Oaklands and the Town Hall noticeboards and also posted on the Council's Facebook page. A public notice was also displayed at Eaton Lands.

We have received more votes for Eaton Lands and Burmarsh compared to Reachfields, Peregrine Close and St George's Place. This may be due to the three playground sites being a much smaller playground space and minority of residents living close to the other three playgrounds.

1.3 Community Infrastructure Levy Reserve

The Community Infrastructure Levy Reserve funds has a current balance of £80,546 to date and can only be used for projects that will benefit or improve the Hythe Community. The installation of new play equipment certainly meets the requirements for Community Infrastructure Levy funds to be utilised as the new play equipment will be benefiting the residents of Hythe and improving the public space.

All quotes for each playgrounds include other costs such as: delivery, installation, heras fencing, welfare facilities, on-site storage and post installation inspections.

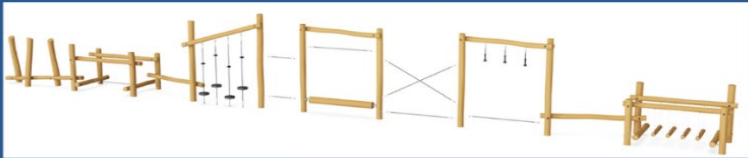

2. EATON LANDS PLAYING FIELD

It is proposed to install new play equipment at Eaton Lands Playing Field to encourage families and children to visit the land regularly. Adding new play equipment will ensure that all users are able to enjoy and all children will have an equal opportunity to access the social experience of play.

2.1 Below are three options from three different contractors with different types of play equipment proposed.

EATON LANDS PLAY AREA


OPTION A







Option A	
Description	Cost
Rubinia Agility Trail (10 obstacles)	
Triple-Bay Pine Wood Swing Frame	
Basket Swing	
Two Flat Swings	
Two Cradle Swings	
Bonded rubber mulch surfacing on Agility Trail, grass mat surfacing on Swing Frame	
Installation, freight and other costs	
Total exc. vat	£24,927.45

EATON LANDS PLAY AREA

OPTION B





Option B	
Description	Cost
Upsilon Trail (10 obstacles)	
Log Swing Frames	
Basket Swing	
Two Flat Swings	
Two Cradle Swings	
Bonded rubber mulch surfacing on all equipment	
Installation, freight and other costs	
Total exc. vat	£24,991.25

EATON LANDS PLAY AREA OPTION C



Option C	
Description	Cost
Playspace Trail (six obstacles)	
Triple-Bay Timber Swing Frame	
Basket Swing	
Two Flat Swings	
Two Cradle Swings	
Grass lock surfacing on all equipment	
Installation, freight and other costs	
Total exc. vat	£24,955.05

2.2 Play Equipment Location

The proposal is to install new play equipment will be installed on the Playing Field in front of the picnic tables.



2.3 Eaton Lands Play Equipment Consultation Results

Eaton Lands new play equipment received 80 votes in total.

Option A – 22 votes

Option B – 32 votes

Option C – 14 votes

Option D – 12 votes



2.4 Eaton Lands Consultation Comments

2.4.1 “I would just like to express my views on the playground equipment proposed for Eaton Lands (I have voted). We back into the mowed part of Eaton Lands, when we moved here our children were young and we all spent many happy hours playing on Eaton Lands. Over the last few years Eaton Lands has become overrun with dogs, sadly not all of them well behaved or friendly (not to mention the mess that’s not picked up), I would not feel safe allowing young children to play out on Eaton

Lands the way my children could through fear of dog attacks. Although my children are now adults I would love to see families and children encouraged back onto Eaton Lands and I think the playground would be a lovely addition, I know my children would have absolutely loved it. I think dog walkers should be encouraged to use the meadow part of Eaton Lands and leave the mowed part for families and children.”

2.4.2 “I completed the Eaton Lands play equipment consultation at the weekend and chose option D. However this was because I thought that option would allow me to specify what I thought, it didn’t and I’ve just realised I have submitted my thinking. Essentially I prefer option B, but I’m not a fan of the big basket swing, namely I don’t think children go for them in great numbers and there’s usually a large plastic element to them. What I think is option B, remove the basket swing, and add more climbing equipment. My grandchildren can’t get enough of them here and in the Netherlands and it feels more in keeping with Eaton. Are there elements from Playspace trail in Option C that could be added to B? That’s my thoughts, totally in favour of it and fully support the initiative.”

3. BURMARSH RECREATION GROUND

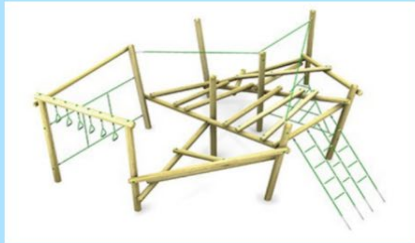
It is proposed to install new play equipment at Burmarsh Recreation Ground to encourage families and children to visit the land regularly. Many primary school students visit Burmarsh Recreation Ground to play after school. However, there is very limited play equipment available and mostly installed for toddlers. By adding new play equipment, the Council ensure that all users are able to enjoy and all children will have an equal opportunity to access the social experience of play.

3.1 Below are the listed play equipment from three different contractors with different types of play equipment proposed.



Option A	
Description	Cost
Robinia Agility Trail (13 obstacles)	
Double-Bay Pine Wood Swing Frame	
Basket Swing	
Two Flat Swings	
Bonded rubber mulch surfacing on Agility Trail, grass mat surfacing on swing frame	
Installation, freight and other costs	
Total exc. vat	£24,992.26

BURMARSH RECREATION GROUND Option B



Option B	
Description	Cost
Timber Pick Up Sticks Climbing Frame	
Log Swing Frames	
Basket Swing	
Two Flat Swings	
Bonded rubber mulch surfacing on all equipment	
Installation, freight and other costs	
Total exc. vat	£24,972.92

BURMARSH RECREATION GROUND

Option C



Option C	
Description	Cost
Timber Burundi Jungle Climber	
Double-Bay Stainless Steel Frame Swing	
Basket Swing	
Two Flat Swings	
Green bonded rubber mulch surfacing on Burundi, grass lock surfacing on swings and log climbing frame	
Installation, freight and other costs	
Total exc. Vat	£24,977.52

3.2 Play Equipment Location

It is proposed to install the new play equipment will be installed near the current toddler's play equipment.



No comments from Burmarsh Recreation Ground Consultation.

3.3 Burmarsh Play Equipment Consultation Results

Burmarsch Recreation Ground received 29 votes received in total.

Option A – 17 votes

Option B – 9 votes

Option C – 3 votes



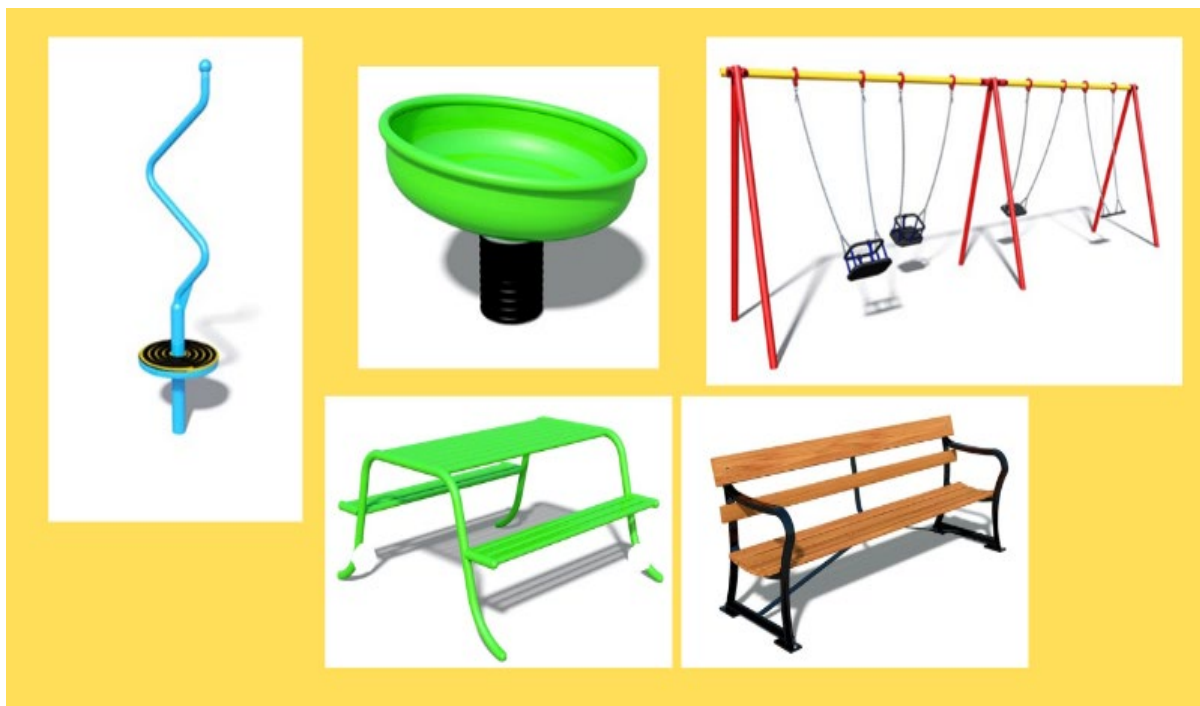
4. REACHFIELDS PLAY AREA

4.1 There is current equipment installed at Reachfields Play Area including two sets of outdoor gym equipment and a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) with football goal posts and basketball hoops. The area is very limited to what is currently available, it is therefore proposed to install new play equipment to encourage families and children to visit the play area regularly.

4.2 Below are the listed play equipment from three different contractors with different types of play equipment proposed.



Option A	
Description	Cost
Double-Bay Pine Wood Swing Frame	
Two Flat Swings	
Two Cradle Swings	
Vertical Spinner	
Balance Bowl	
Pine Picnic Bench	
Pine Bench	
Bonded rubber mulch surfacing on all play equipment	
Installation, freight and other costs	
Total exc. Vat	£15,842.54



Option B	
Description	Cost
Double-Bay Stainless Steel Swing Frame	
Two Flat Swings	
Two Cradle Swings	
Vertical Spinner	
Spinner Bowl	
Keyston Picnic Table	
Barton Seat	
Bonded rubber mulch surfacing on all play equipment	
Installation, freight and other costs	
Total exc. vat	£15,970.20



Option C	
Description	Cost
Double-Bay Stainless Steel Swing Frame	
Two Flat Swings	
Two Cradle Swings	
Spinner Bowl	
Vertical Spinner	
Lakeland Picnic Table	
City Bench Seat	
Grass lock surfacing on all play equipment	
Installation, freight and other costs	
Total exc. vat	£14,998.59

No comments from Reachfields Consultation.

4.3 Play Equipment Location

The proposed installation of the new play equipment will be installed on the left side of the MUGA.



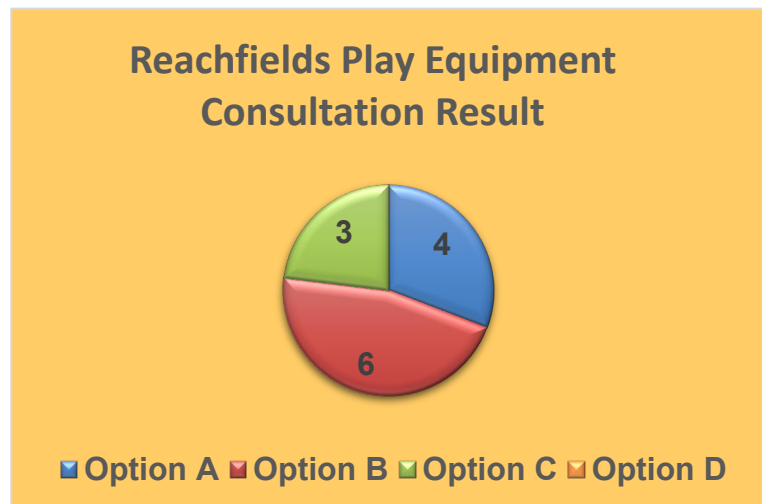
4.4 Reachfields Consultation Results

Reachfields Recreation
Ground received 13 votes in
total.

Option A – 4 votes

Option B – 6 votes

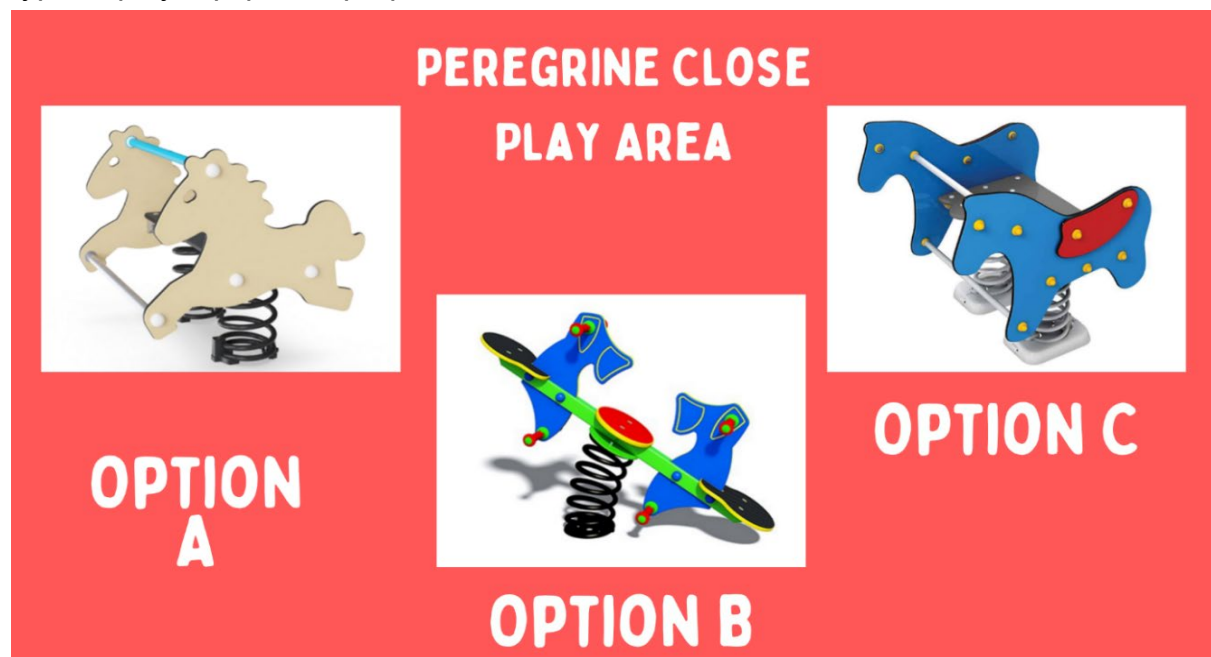
Option C – 3 votes



5. Peregrine Close Play Area

5.1 Peregrine Close playground is mainly for the use of toddlers. There is only one set of play equipment at Peregrine Close and it is a multi-play equipment with a slide. This particular playground is very small, however, there is enough space to fit in one new play equipment item.

5.2 Below are the listed play equipment from three different contractors with different type of play equipment proposed.



Option A	Option B	Option C
Horse Springer Two-Seater	Scottie 2-Way	Spring Foal Springer Two-Seater

Installation, freight and other costs	Installation, freight and other costs	Installation, freight and other costs
£2,816.84 exc. vat	£2,866.50 exc. vat	£2,997.65 exc. vat

NB Option A: *This quotation is provided on the basis that the installation works would be awarded alongside works on another close distant site e.g. St George's Place.*

5.3 Play Equipment Location

The proposal installation of the new play equipment will be installed next to the current multi-play equipment.

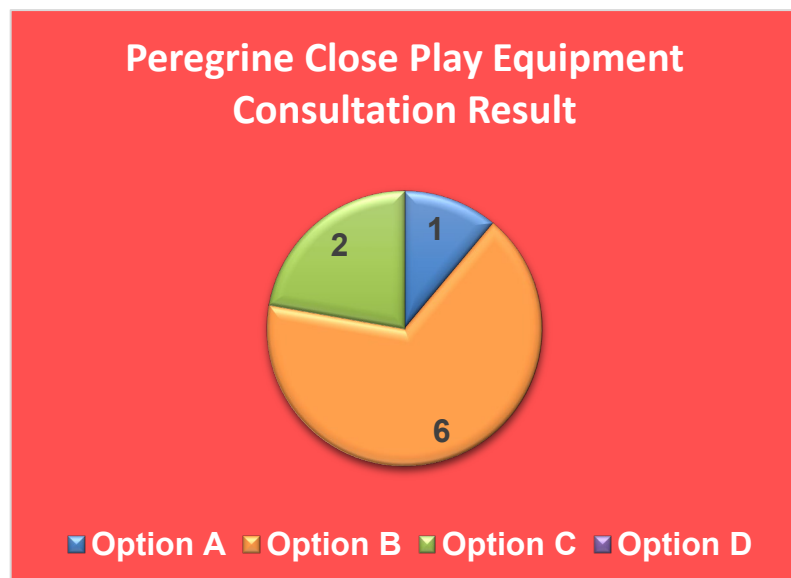


5.4 No comment from Peregrine Close Consultation.

5.5 Peregrine Close Consultation Result

Peregrine Close Playground received 9 votes in total.

Option A – 1
Option B – 6
Option C – 2



6.St George's Place Play Area

6.1 The playground is very well hidden in between two houses and is located in the corner of St George's Place. The proposed equipment listed below is for the replacement on one of the missing play equipment of the agility trail.


6.2 The playground is a walking distant to a primary school, by adding new play equipment, the Council ensure that the playground is fully equipped and users are able to enjoy and all children will have an equal opportunity to access the social experience of play.

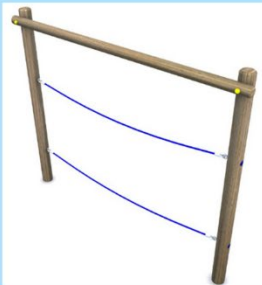
6.3 There is a map below to show where the playground is located and the entrance to the playground.


6.4 The Playground Equipment Maintenance Reserve is recommended to be vired to Playground Equipment Maintenance budget code to cover the cost.

6.5 Below are the listed play equipment from three different contractors with different type of play equipment proposed.

St George's Place Play Area Consultation pick your favourite option


A


B


C

Option A	Option B	Option C
Rubinia Balance Plus	Parallel Rope Walk	Timber Wavy Bars
Pine Bench	Barton Bench	Bandrake Bench
£2,981.39 exc. vat	£2,720.80 exc. vat	£2,993.49 exc. vat

NB Option A: *This quotation is provided on the basis that the installation works would be awarded alongside works on another close distant site e.g. Peregrine Close.*

6.6 Play Equipment Location

The proposed installation of the new play equipment will be conjoined with the current agility trail.



No comment from St George's Place Consultation.

6.7 St George's Place Consultation Result

St George's Place Playground received 13 votes in total.

Option A – 8 votes
Option B – 2 votes
Option C – 3 votes



SUMMARY

The overall result from the consultation shows that the public would like to see the Play Equipment **Option B** at a cost of £24,991.25 for Eaton Lands, **Option A** at a cost of £24,992.26 for Burmarsh, **Option B** at a cost of £15,970.20 for Reachfields, **Option B** at a cost of £2,866.50 for Peregrine Close and **Option A** at a cost of £2,981.39 for St George's Place.

Should the committee recommend to full council to install new equipment on all five sites, the total cost would be £71,801.60 leaving £8,744.61 in CIL reserves for other items.

The committee are asked to consider the results of the consultation and which option should be set, if any at all for the five playground sites.

RISK MANAGEMENT

A summary of the perceived risk follows;

Perceived Risk

There are a limited number of play equipment to the following playground sites. Council do not install new play equipment for a younger age group and only children of a certain age can enjoy the area therefore not providing equipment for all younger age groups.

Risk Low

Likelihood Low

Preventative Action There will be new play equipment installed to the following sites in addition to current play equipment. The new play equipment can be used by toddlers and older children.

CONTACT OFFICER

If you have any queries about this report, please contact The Town Clerk and the Responsible Financial Officer of the Council.

Tel: 01303 266152 or email clerk@hythe-tc.gov.uk prior to the meeting.