

Parish Councillor Briefing: Play Area Replacement Equipment

1. Purpose

To update councillors on the condition of the play area equipment, outline requests from the pre-school, and present the quotations received for replacement units.

2. Background

- Several existing play units are **worn out** and require replacement.
- There is **limited provision for younger children**, creating a gap in age-appropriate play opportunities.
- The pre-school has specifically requested:
 - A **train-themed play unit** to replace the condemned Jeep unit.
 - A **tower-type unit** suitable for younger children.

Four companies were approached for quotations; **three responded**.

3. Quotations Received

1. Outdoor Play People

Proposed equipment:

- Eddie the Mini Engine – £3,500



- Mini Tender (crawl-through/climb-over) – £1,771

Mini Tender



- Mini Carriage Slide (stainless steel) – £3,852

Mini Carriage Slide



- Modified Apple Cottage (bespoke Halwill Junction station theme) – £3,495

Apple Cottage



- Delivery & installation (GrassLok safety surface) – £1,259
- 80sqm ground support mesh + GrassLok matting – £2,352

**Total: £16,229 Discounted total (Royal Cornwall Discount, expires mid-April 2026):
£15,500**

2. Piran Services

- “Choo Choo Train” timber unit (ages 3–11) – £11,973



- “Single Woodland Tower” timber unit (ages 5–11) – £13,064



Total: £25,037

3. Sovereign Play

- Foxtail unit with installation – £3,635.14



- Estuary Flyer with installation – £2,720.58



- Safety surfacing & sundry installation costs – £7,842.12

Total: £14,197.84

4. Summary Comparison

Supplier	Train-Themed Unit	Younger-Child Tower	Material	Total Cost
Outdoor Play People	Yes	Yes	Composite	£15,500– £16,229
Piran Services	Yes	Yes	Wood	£25,037
Sovereign Play	Yes	Yes	Wood	£14,197.84

5. Considerations for Councillors

- **Age suitability:** All offer units specifically meeting the pre-school’s request.
- **Thematic fit:** Outdoor Play People provide a bespoke Halwill Junction station theme, aligning with local heritage.
- **Support:** Piran are a new company with no track record to judge by. The existing swings and trim trail were supplied by the Outdoor Play People who

are Cornwall based and have been very helpful in the past. We have used Sovereign in the past, it has been hard work dealing with them.

- **Budget:** Sovereign Play is the lowest cost.
- **Deadline:** Outdoor Play People's discounted price expires **mid-April 2026**.
- **Prices:** Only likely to increase
- **Surfacing:** All quotes include installation and safety surfacing, though methods differ.

6. Funding

This is not something we have budgeted for. However, we do have some grant money available or received to fund play area equipment:

- Locality grants received to date **£1250**
- Promised by Scallywags **£500**
- S106 grants for play equipment **£4439.26**
- Total **£6189.26**

We would have to fund the remainder from reserves

7. Options

1. **Select a preferred supplier** and proceed with procurement.
2. **Request further clarification or revised designs** from one or more suppliers.
3. **Defer decision** pending additional quotes or community consultation.
4. **Approve only part of the scheme** (e.g., train unit now, tower later).