

Meeting	Full Council
Date	23 rd June 2026
Report Title	Francomes Play Area
Agenda Reference	19
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Officers Recommendation

1. To note the report.

Purpose of Report

This report sets out the position regarding the future of Francomes Play Area. It summarises the background discussions, the options considered, the preferred course of action, and the next steps required.

Background

Francomes Play Area has been the subject of discussions involving Swindon Borough Council (SBC), Haydon Wick Parish Council (HWPC) and Persimmon.

SBC Ward Councillor Stanka Wilson (Haydon Wick) had a meeting with Persimmon representatives identified possible ways forward for the play area and the associated land, which remains in Persimmon's ownership.

Current Position

Three possible solutions were identified for the future of Francomes Play Area:

- Transfer of the play area for £1.
- Dismantling of the play area, managed and paid for by Persimmon.
- Refurbishment of the play area, with Persimmon contributing an amount equivalent to the cost of dismantling.

Following a meeting with the Chief Officer and Deputy Clerk, after earlier discussions within Council, the preferred way forward was agreed as asking Persimmon to dismantle the play area at its own cost.

SBC is happy to continue liaising with Persimmon directly and will copy HWPC Officers into the emails.

Once the play area has been dismantled, consideration will be needed regarding both the play area land and the surrounding land, which remain in Persimmon's ownership. HWPC has indicated that it could formally take on the land to ensure regular maintenance continues. HWPC is already maintaining the grass surrounding the play area.