

Report to Sampford Courtenay Parish Council Meeting: 16 September 2026

Report by: Malcolm Harris – Parish Clerk

Subject: Development of the Village Green Phase 2

1. The Purpose of the report:

2. Introduction

The refurbishment of the Village Green is now into its second phase. In 2026, the pathway from the village centre was completed and added both an accessible and attractive addition to the area. With funding from the County Council Locality Fund, additional seating benches were purchased to start the process of refurbishing and redesigning the community areas. The Village Green hosts several community events throughout the year and there is a need to provide a safe and attractive environment for the parish residents and visitors.

At the Open Parish meeting in May 2026, there was some discussion from parishioners regarding the need to improve the children's play equipment currently in situ, and the suggestion that an adult's exercise area be created. This project was subsequently taken into the Parish Council 2026/27 list of Parish Priorities for further research and development.

The report sets out a series of proposals for the replacement of the Multi-Purpose Children's Play Station, the development of Adults Stay Active Area, and improvements to the community space, with a new picnic table, Village Green noticeboard, and a football goal post. All proposals have been costed, following discussions with a number of Play Equipment Companies.

2. Children's Play Equipment

The current play equipment provides for children with an age range between 5 years to 10 years. It consists of a set of 2 swings and a multi activity climbing tower with slide. Following this year's annual play inspection condition report (reported to Council at its June 2026 meeting), it is apparent that the multi activity equipment has maintenance issues and is currently in poor condition.

2.1 Options and Financial Implications for the Children's Play Area

Refurbishment

The inspection report has highlighted damage and ageing wood struts that require replacement and virtually all of the fixings require replacing as new. This work requires professional installation and expensive replacement parts and the play company's advice is that the current equipment, be removed, and replaced.

Purchase of a new Children's Multi Play Area

Purchasing another multi play station would be space saving and is an attractive option to parents who can see children play in a confined space. Examples of the range and lay out of the equipment are set out in **Appendix A**.

Financial Implications

A quote obtained from the current supplier, for the removal of the current equipment, delivery and installation of a new Toddlers Tower is **£5,000 (includes VAT)**. The price could be reduced if the Parish Council arranged for the removal of the current Play Station.

3. Adults Stay Active and Exercise Project

The project has been identified as one of the Council's priorities. There are suggestions from the community that it would be welcomed, and there could be a top up to funding via the Locality Funding from the District and County Councils with a focus upon local activity and wellness opportunities in the rural area. There are several companies in the south west offering adult exercise equipment and some initial research has been undertaken around local playing fields.

Marketing examples often show the adult stations closely positioned to the play area – exercising whilst the children play – Okehampton Simmons Park is one such example. **Appendix A** also shows a brochure example. Trim trails, that encourage adults to move from one exercise station to another are often positioned around the perimeter of a field or green. There is an option to add additional stations at a later date

Adult activity stations require very little in the way of safety surfacing providing the equipment does not exceed 1.5-2.5 metres although research into other playgrounds has shown that whilst rubber mesh is often placed into the grass other parks install directly onto the grass, reducing costs.

3.1 Financial Implications

Activity Stations - Broxap have indicated that a fitness package of 4 pieces would be in the region of **£5,918 which would include installation and delivery (includes VAT)**

4. Community Usage Development

The Village Green is an important asset to the community and the annual events continue to grow year on. As an example, the successful Teddy Bears Picnic this year will now develop into an annual event. To provide pleasant social seating and picnic tables and a shelter against extreme weather conditions would develop the Green for more of this type of community usage.

The Village Green would benefit from a high-quality noticeboard board introducing the Village Green, and the facilities available. There is a very good example in **Appendix A**.

4.1 Financial Implications

Notice Boards	£100
Social seating /picnic table for 8.	£700
Football post.	£100
Total	£1800

5. Financial Summary for the three elements of the Village Green development

a) Children's Play @ £5,000

Replacement of multi activity equipment.

b) Adults Stay Active and Exercise @ £5,918

1 Multi pack of 4 equipment pieces , installation

c) Community Development @ £1800

Notice Boards , Social seating /picnic table for 8, and goal post.

Total cost of the project = **£12,719 (VAT £2544)**

4.2 Current budget allowance

There are several cost centres in the EMR for 2026/27 that could provide approximately £10000 towards the Village Green improvement project. The full budget would become available in March 2027. This can also be supplemented by local grant applications. (potential for £1200)

Village Green Project	£3196 (£1000 to EMR in September)
Parish Enhancement Fund	£4106
The SeaMoor Lottery by March 2027	£1,000
The 2026/27 Windfarm Grant	£1200 (March)
Budget available	£9502

4.3 Funding opportunities

West Devon Borough Council and Devon County Council would be approached for assistance of £600 each from their 2026/27 and 2027/28 Locality Funds towards the Adult Stay Active and Exercise project. There are no appropriate funding opportunities for Parish Council projects such as ours, currently advertised in the Devon Funding News.

5. Recommendations

5.1 It is recommended that the current Multi Activity Station for children be removed.

5.2 It is recommended that the available budget of £9502 be allocated to phase 1 of the Village Green Project, to include the new Toddlers Play Tower, and 3-4 adult outdoor gym stations.

5.3 It is recommended that applications for additional funding be made to WBBC and DCC.

5.4 It is recommended that the element of community use be undertaken after the VAT has been reclaimed, and additional funding is made available at the start of the 2027/28 financial year.

5.5 It is recommended that a further report is brought to the November meeting to set out the details of three formal quotations for the Village Green Development Project, with a view to commencing work on the project in the Spring of 2027.

Appendix A Village Green Development

Examples of Adult Exercise stations and Children's play equipment



