

# Restoration of Souldern Playground

First Open Meeting, 5th March 2020



Chair: Nick Oakhill, Souldern Parish Council

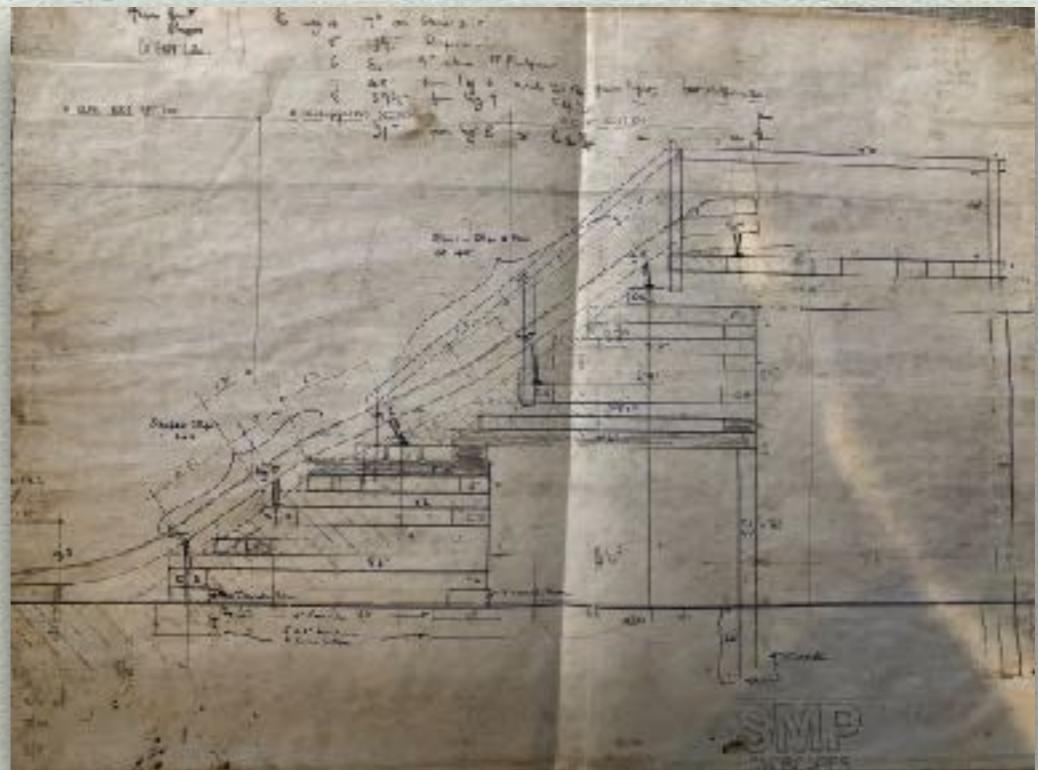
Presenter: Lucy Cornish, Souldern Playground Advisory Group

# At the heart of the community

- ◆ ‘The playground is a real asset to the village, and whatever can be done would be hugely appreciated by my family.’
- ◆ ‘I have been using this park for 17 years with 5 grandchildren.’
- ◆ ‘We are fully supportive of the project to replace the playground and consider it to be a real asset to the village.’
- ◆ ‘It is a vital resource for the community. No other children’s play is available without a car journey.’
- ◆ Good for the village hall - ‘a space for kids whilst other events are taking place.’
- ◆ ‘I think the playground is an integral part of the village’.

# Loved by generations

- ◆ Opened 1973
- ◆ Renovated 1993



# Souldern's Recreation Assets



Multi-goal 2010

# Souldern's Recreation Assets



# End of it's lifespan



# New safety standards



# Professional Advice

- ◆ Recent RoSPA inspection and Oxfordshire Playing Field Association recommend replacing playground equipment.
- ◆ Oxfordshire Playing Field Association advised doing this all at once to lessen cost and inconvenience.

# Why could the playground close?

- ◆ Equipment at end of life span.
- ◆ Difficult to insure and maintain.
- ◆ Contractors will not refurbish, only replace.
- ◆ Plan ahead - other equipment will likely need to be removed in the next few years.

# What can be done?

1. Launch a new fundraising team to work closely with SPC.
2. Publish results of survey and meeting on [souldern.org](http://souldern.org).
3. Design of playground.
4. Decide on contractors, compare quotes. OPFA / other villages will advise.
5. Second consultation and open meeting with village.
6. Announce a fundraising target.
7. Create a crowdfunding page (several offers of donation from villagers).
8. Apply for grant.
  - ◆ Big Lottery Fund, Landfill Community Fund, advice from OPFA.
9. **Have fun and meet people!**

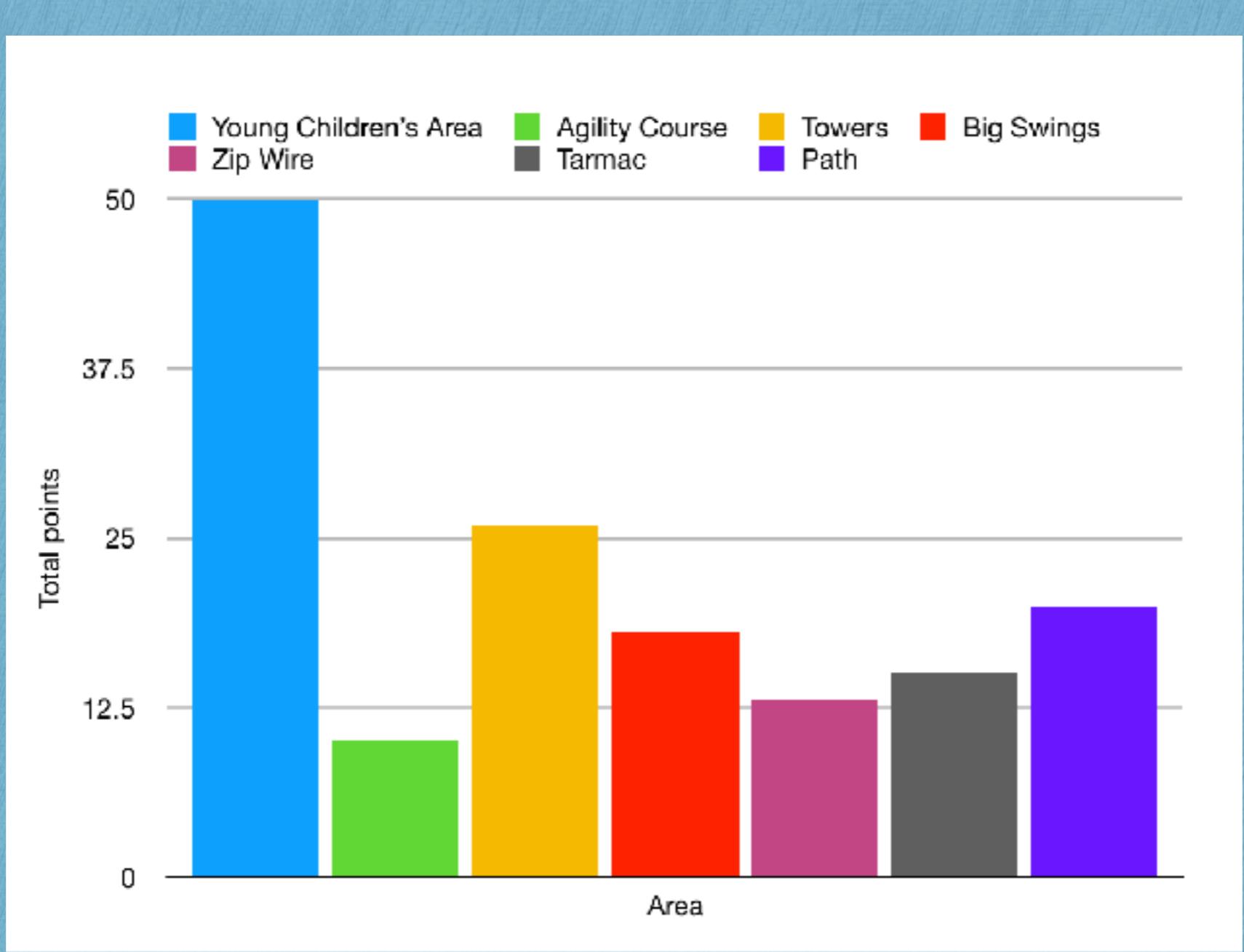
# Grant application success

- ◆ **Needs:** How do we know there's a need for our project?
- ◆ **Aims:** What problems do you hope to solve?
- ◆ **Evidence of Needs:** Surveys, Open Meetings, Census Data.
- ◆ **Activities** must achieve an **outcome** e.g. improved rural environment, healthier people.

# Response to first consultation

- ◆ **28 respondents to survey sent to every household in Souldern.**
  - ◆ 16 with children < 10 years, 2 with children > 10, 1 child, 2 grandparents, 7 other villagers.
- ◆ **Q1: Replacement vs removal.**
  - ◆ 100% of replies in favour of replacement.
  - ◆ Two comments whether refurb of existing equipment possible.
- ◆ **Q2. Alternative use of space.** No answers.
- ◆ **Q3. Areas to be included in a new playground.**
  - ◆ Most popular: 1st :Young Children's Area. 2nd: Towers. 3rd: Swings for older children
  - ◆ Other ideas: Sheltered area for carers to sit, exercise equipment, dog area.

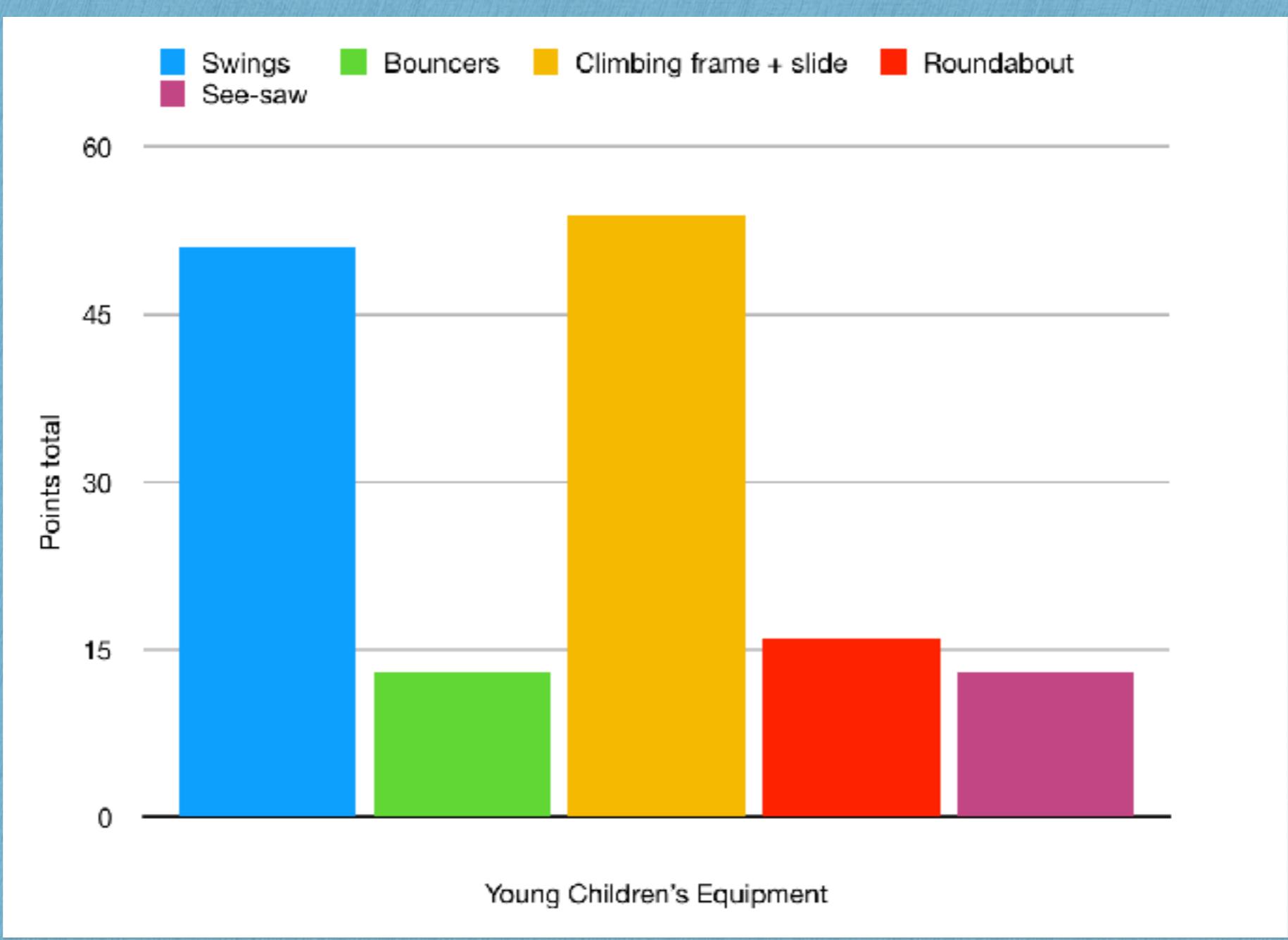
**Points tally: 1st choice = 3 points, 2nd choice = 2 points, 3rd choice = 1 point**



- ◆ **Q4. Young children's area equipment:**

- ◆ 1st choice: Climbing frame + slide. 2nd: swings.
- ◆ Other ideas: Wendy house.
- ◆ **Comments:** Very positive and supportive.
  - ◆ Keep the big slide most repeated comment.
  - ◆ Sand not popular.
  - ◆ Ardley playground a good model.
  - ◆ Doesn't need to be fancy.

Points tally: 1st choice = 3 points, 2nd choice = 2 points, 3rd choice = 1 point



# The Big Slide of Souldern

- ◆ A Souldern landmark
- ◆ Built in 1975 from railway sleepers
- ◆ The metal slide is in good condition
- ◆ Significant rot in the legs at ground level
- ◆ Closed following RoSPA inspection
- ◆ May be possible to rebuild a structure



# ACT NOW!

- ◆ Save the playground
- ◆ Protect Souldern's green spaces
- ◆ A once in a generation task
- ◆ Most other villages have already acted
- ◆ Souldern's children need you!!





# Spring Playground Working Party

- ◆ Saturday 21st March, 9.30am.
- ◆ Playground Maintenance: Welcome and thank you Emily Pheasant & Hannah Twynam



# Questions and Comments

