

**Committee: Open Spaces**

**Date: 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

**Title: Recreation Ground Play Park**

**Purpose of Report**

To allow for committee members to consider a solution to stop children digging under the Sophie Louise.

**Recommendation:**

Members to consider the installation of gravel boards to the legs of the Sophie Louise.

**Background:**

1. During a routine play park inspection on 17<sup>th</sup> August by the SSDC Play Inspector, a child was seen digging into the sand to crawl under the Sophie Louise and this has been noted on the inspection report.

**Report:**

1. An email was sent to the manufacturer of the Sophie Louise, Richter. They suggested adding marine plyboards and have suggested that to make any real effect would need to bolt the plyboards to the posts under the boat. This would not invalidate the warranty.



2. Having had a further discussion with Play UK, the play equipment installation team who installed the other play equipment, they suggested using wooden gravel

boards as a cheaper alternative and just as effective, which could also be installed by our own grounds team reducing the extra cost even further.

3. The Sophie Louise is 19.40m long and 5.10m wide. The estimated cost of purchasing gravel boards could be approximately £155.00. The additional cost of screws would need to be researched.

Wickes Treated Timber Gravel Board - 19mm X 150mm X 2.4m  
Pack Of 5

Product code: 107142



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Gravel boards are the protective barrier between the ground and your fence. By preventing direct contact with damp or wet earth, moisture damage can be avoided. Versatile and pre-treated for external use, ideal for fencing projects.

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**£37**

£3.08 per M

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Julie Earp  
Deputy Town Clerk  
September 2021