

Annabel Tall BEng CEng MIET
Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Bath

When I became a parliamentary candidate for Bath I really didn't expect to be here asking the council to reconsider proposals to close five of our young children's play parks. I am asking you to think again. We know that councils are facing challenging times, but they do have choices about how a budget is spent. The role of a councillor is to listen to all the officers' recommendations then use your wisdom as elected representatives to prioritise the competing demands.

Looking at the big picture our play parks provide a vital service, particularly in our city environment. Our children need to learn the benefits of outdoor activity and play from an early age. We are facing a national obesity and exercise crisis and we should be doing all we can to get them outdoors and active with inviting play equipment. We know parks bring benefits to their health, wellbeing, social skills, and concentration in nursery and school. They also provide an invaluable opportunity for new parents to make friends and establish social networks. Why do we think the play parks were built in the first place? Without the parks the negative consequences fall on our other services, schools, mental health services, society and our NHS.

While our council is proposing to cut our children's play parks, other councils such as Bexley and Gloucester, with the same constraints, are not only keeping theirs open, but are using innovative solutions to build more.

Over the last few weeks I have been contacted by countless parents asking me to help them. They are relying on people like me and their councillors to make their case as I am doing tonight. A short video I put on FB 2 days ago has already had over 1500 views. Residents care deeply about their children and their play parks.

I am absolutely sure that everyone here wants our children to have happy, healthy lives. When you are making your decisions think of the broader issues, the long term consequences, other options. Above all, think of our children, our residents and our city. I urge you - think again.

Annabel Tall BEng CEng MIET | Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Bath

www.annabelltall.co.uk

Tel: +44 (0) 1225 338 555

96, Sydney Mews, Bath. BA2 4ED

@annabelltall

[www.fb.com/annabelltall](https://www.facebook.com/annabelltall)

www.linkedin/in/annabelltall