

Good evening

I am Adam Jukes, a resident of Fairfield Park and I am here today to offer my support for this Green Party motion on enabling outdoor play and community belonging across Bath and North East Somerset.

My 8 year old daughter attends St Stephens Primary School and benefits from play equipment close to the school on Richmond Green. She also benefits from parent community efforts to enable safer walking, cycling and playing spaces close to the school. She has also benefited from having a greenspace with play equipment close to where we live.

We are fortunate to live on a no-through road. Low traffic levels on our road make the street environment safer and more pleasant for all residents. Wren and other children on Hampton View play together outside on the street – something I enjoyed in my childhood. Many families sit out in their front gardens and children's play is often free flowing between houses up and down the road. Higher traffic levels would likely mean my daughter would spend more time indoors and be less active. How do the traffic levels on other roads impact children's ability to play outside where they live?

Outside St Stephens Primary School parents, including myself have organised play streets to create a safe, traffic free environment outside the school for everyone. These enable children to pause and play before school and after. It enables parents and guardians to pause and chat helping maintain community cohesion. We've run them in June and most recently at the beginning of January. Despite the cooler wetter weather children played with skipping ropes and drew chalk pictures on the road.

Parents and teachers at St Stephens are also preparing for the implementation of a school street, this is something we've asked the council to install as we have seen the benefits of a safer environment at drop off and pick up by running these play streets.

How are play streets benefiting communities across Bath and North East Somerset? What further support could be provided to enable more communities to run them?

I support this motion. I don't believe that the access to greenspace, play streets and play equipment that Wren benefits from is available by all children in Bath & North East Somerset. I would welcome and champion work to understand this provision and its corresponding impacts.

Thank you very much