

Dear Downs Committee,

I present this petition to you signed by 738 [may increase by date of meeting] people, most of whom live within a short walk of the Downs, in and around my ward of Clifton Down.

This petition calls on the Downs Committee to yield the land to build a new children's playground on the Downs, preferably near the Water Tower and Cafe on Stoke Road.

Why is this petition important?

There is no public play equipment in Clifton Down ward (the area around Whiteladies Road).

There is an excellent set of play equipment at the other end of the Downs, near the Suspension Bridge. However, this is 1.5 miles from the top of Whiteladies Road, which is too far for most young children to walk. There is another playground in neighbouring Redland ward, but this is only within toddler walking distance for some parts of the ward, and is not served by any local bus routes.

Clifton Down is a densely populated ward with a high proportion of flats. Therefore, despite being privileged in many other ways, a lot of residents do not have a private garden.

Demonstrating demand

Parents in Clifton Down ward wrote to me as their local councillor to ask for a new playground. I contacted Councillor Paula O'Rourke, my party's representative on the Downs Committee. She advised me that the committee would consider it, but would need to see that there is sufficient demand.

I hope you agree that the number of signatures on this petition demonstrates that demand. The following indicative calculation illustrates this. Suppose:

- Only around half of signatories have children (the others, like me, may have signed the petition because they know about the demand from neighbours, nephews and nieces, etc) [$738 / 2 = 369$]
- Signatories that do have children have on average two. [$369 \times 2 = 738$ children]
- Each signatory with children would visit the playground 1 or 2 times per week (1.5 on average) [$738 \times 1.5 = 1107$ visits]
- Each signatory family would spend on average 30 minutes at the playground per visit [$1107 \times 0.5 = 554$ child-hours per week = 79 child-hours per day]

Vision

My vision is for a modest, well-designed children's playground, similar to the one near the Suspension Bridge, preferably located near the water tower and café on Stoke Road. I fully understand and agree that the majority of the Downs should remain unenclosed and available for use by everyone. I believe that a small playground in this location will enhance the Downs as a valuable resource for all people of Bristol, by providing something for younger families to do.

I believe that this proposal would knit in very well with other proposals currently being considered for the Downs, including the Downs Loop, the new café, the renovated changing rooms, and I hope other facilities such as bike rental and improved public toilets. These would combine to make the Downs a more enjoyable and stimulating place to visit for a wider variety of Bristol's residents. I also believe that this proposal is fully in line with the Place and Movement Framework.



The existing Clifton Suspension Bridge Playground

What next

This petition calls on the Downs Committee to *yield the land* to build a new children's playground on the Downs, preferably near the Water Tower and Cafe on Stoke Road. It leaves the details of the proposals to be decided by the Downs committee if it wishes. The petition does not ask for funding from Downs Committee, at least at this stage.

I, and the petition signatories, are open to suggestions to funding. How was the existing playground near the Suspension Bridge funded? As the proposed new playground would be similar in size and purpose, could it be funded in same way?

So what I'm looking for from you today is:

1. A decision to support the construction of a new playground on the Downs in principle, subject to detailed design and funding being secured.
2. An expression of willingness to work with me and others on the design and funding.

Many thanks for reading this statement. I am happy to answer any questions.