

STATEMENT NUMBER 7

Dear Downs Committee,

My name is Rupert Stuart-Baker and I live just off Whiteladies Road. I'm a father with a 3 year old son, Thomas and my wife Katharine is pregnant with our 2nd child. I have lived in Bristol since I came here for university in 2001.

Along with 750 other local residents who have signed the recent petition I would like to express my gratitude for your time to consider this new playground for the area. The Downs is a fantastic, beautiful and important natural asset to the area and should be preserved yet the area does lack a local playground for children. I have lived in Clifton for almost 10 years and until I had children I didn't notice how important the proximity of amenities and support networks are. I think the recent lockdown and the affect of the Coronavirus pandemic has taught us all that investment in green spaces and local services for all ages is incredibly important for mental well-being and physical health of the community.

At present our nearest playground is at the Suspension Bridge, which is a 25 minute walk for an adult and virtually impossible with a slow walking toddler. The next nearest is Redland School playground which involves crossing a number of busy roads and is also a 25 minute walk. I think a playground by the Water Tower and small café would provide a great opportunity for the local community and visitors to congregate and give small children the opportunity to play. I've also noticed a number of older residents in Clifton who really appreciate the interaction with children in recent months and they may also enjoy the opportunity to take grandchildren to the playground and have a cup of tea.

Given The Downs is a hugely important green space any design should be carefully considered and I would recommend something like the below which is a picture of Tyntesfield's sustainable playground for children, which allows them to practice balancing, jumping and climbing without using plastic, metal or any unnatural materials. This is probably the best looking and most practical playground the in region. The firm I believe is called the Green Play Projects.

<http://www.greenplayproject.co.uk/gardens/tyntesfield-national-trust-wraxall-north-somerset/>

I look forward to hearing your recommendations in due course.

Kind regards

Rupert

