

# **Motion to request North Northamptonshire Council put in place a Play Streets policy and to write a statement of commitment from the town council that we support the concept.**

## **Preamble**

Put simply [Play Streets](#) are when residents can legally close off a road to through traffic for a few hours so children can play outside in their own street. Residents can still drive in in a controlled way. It helps bring communities together and brings many benefits such as helping people realise the potential for better use of street space.

Remember when you were a child and your parents let you play in the street outside your house? When did that change and why - with more and more cars on the roads over the last few decades, it's just not as safe for children to play in the street any more. Plus there are a whole host of indoor entertainment options with screens everywhere!

With council permission and general consensus from neighbours, residents can legally close their road to through-traffic. Residents still have vehicle access and can leave their cars parked on the road. Volunteer stewards (usually residents) stand at each end of the street and walk in front of any moving vehicles to keep it safe.

Play Streets are resident-led and organised, short, regular road closures which allow [free, child-led play](#). All neighbours are consulted and included, the road is legally and safely closed to through traffic and they are stewarded by residents, with cars having access at walking pace.

Play streets give children a chance to play, be active and make friends on their street, whilst also building community and encouraging active citizenship. As well as these immediate benefits, they can help to bring about a longer-term culture-change, where streets are safer and friendlier and it is more normal for children to play out.

The benefits of resident-led play streets align with the strategic priorities of local authorities. They are a very simple, low-cost way to:

- increase children's physical activity and wellbeing
- build strong, inclusive communities and overcome isolation
- promote safer streets and support active travel

[Leeds City Council](#), [Norfolk County Council](#), [Cambridgeshire County Council](#) and London Borough of [Hackney](#) are just four of the 80 plus councils that have already pledged their support.

If NNC had an official play streets policy in place, this would have the added benefits for residents of Kingsley Avenue for their annual Halloween celebrations, Hollow Wood Road in Burton Latimer would be able to close for their Christmas lights, William Street will be able to close their street for whatever fantastic event is taking place there, and many other streets would be able to join those three examples to allow children to once again play in their street.

And with the Queens Jubilee next year, it will be easier for residents to close their roads for street parties.

As we come out of lockdown it would be really great if the council could get behind this and promote it - it also links in to the [#SummerOfPlay](#) campaign by Play England, Save the Children and other organisations

Motion:

We call on the Council to:

**Request North Northamptonshire Council put in place a Play Streets policy and to write a statement of commitment from Kettering Town Council that we support the concept.**

Proposer: Dez Dell

Secunder: Maggie Don