Warndon Parish Council Play Street motion

- In November 2025, Worcester City Council passed the “Enabling Outdoor Play and community Belonging” motion. As a Parish Council, we have a vital role in community building and local community events so I consider it important that the parish council looks at our role in supporting play.
- This motion builds on the Worcester Play Plan that sets out ambitious development for our play spaces across the city, and this motion acknowledges that play goes beyond playgrounds.
- Council acknowledges the vital role that physical activity and outdoor play have in supporting the health, wellbeing, and development of children and young people across Worcester.
- Council notes that outdoor play in England has declined by 50% in a generation, with traffic, fear of crime, and unwelcoming public spaces contributing to this drop.
- Research published in the British Medical Journal identified a mental health crisis in young people before COVID-19, with the pandemic simply making all issues worse and widening inequalities.
- Council notes the work undertaken by the charity Playing Out. Play streets (or ‘playing out’ sessions) are neighbour-led temporary road closures on quiet, residential streets, creating a safe space for children to play freely together on their doorstep. With consensus from neighbours, residents facilitate play sessions in the street. Residents still have vehicle access and can leave their cars parked on the road. In addition to giving children the opportunity to be more active, learn skills and make friends on their street, play streets can have a huge impact on community connection, feelings of belonging and reducing isolation.
- Playing out can allow children and young people to build emotional resilience through creating strong ties to their local community and developing both social skills and a sense of belonging.
- Council notes that the UN convention on the rights of the child includes article 31; leisure, play and culture. Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.
- Council also recognises the need to ensure that all public spaces feel safe and inclusive for people of all ages. In developing these proposals, care should be taken to address the concerns of older residents. These actions support Worcester’s ambitions for healthier communities, more child-friendly neighbourhoods, and stronger social connections across the city.

Council therefore resolves to:

- Consider how to bring forward proposals to support more welcoming, child-friendly neighbourhoods and public spaces, including the potential for Play Streets by adopting and promoting a supportive play street policy, following best practice.
- Promote the Parish Council community grants fund as a means for residents to develop play opportunities (eg, funding to support Play streets)
- Use our website and social media platforms to share messages about play, the importance of play and how residents can facilitate play.
- Note and report signage or other features that may unintentionally discourage informal outdoor play.
- Develop a play space strategy to safeguard our play spaces as local government reorganisation develops.

Key Reference Documents:

Play Streets Model Policy

https://playingout.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Best-Practice-for-Temporary-Play-Streets.pdf

Raising the Nation: Everything to Play For

https://www.centreforyounglives.org.uk/news-centre/everything-to-play-for

Play England: It All Starts with Play!

https://www.playengland.org.uk/strategy

Children, Young People and the built environment
https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-10363/

Information on the APPG on play

https://www.playengland.org.uk/appg

Alliance for Children: Power 2 Play report

https://eprints.worc.ac.uk/15072/4/Power%202%20Play%20Report.pdf

Play Wales information on play sufficiency

https://play.wales/play-policy-legislation/play-sufficiency