

EXTRA EXTRA!

READ ALL ABOUT IT

Samira's play street story

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Samira lives on the 14th floor in a tower block community in Bristol and says play streets have helped bring people together.

Where do you hold your playing out sessions?

Our play street happens on a small road next to our tower blocks. The road also has a special needs school and a GP surgery on it. We decided to choose Sundays so that parents and patients would not be inconvenienced by the road closure. At first I had wanted to close a big road, but with buses and other things I saw that would not work, so we looked closer to home.

How did you get started?

I saw something on Twitter where someone had closed their road and I tweeted that we would love to have this in Barton Hill. Lucy at Playing Out got back and offered to support me, and together we put in the council application.

How did you consult with your community?

I sent a letter to as many people as I could and I also put it out on our Block WhatsApp group and the groups of the other blocks. Also word of mouth carried



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it about. No one had a problem with it and everyone was positive.

What was the first one like?

It was wonderful. Younger children came out and were chatting and playing, whatever they wanted to do – chalking, running, hide and seek, kicking a ball around. Even singing. Mums came and chatted together in a different part of the road. People stepped up to help, to steward the ends of the road so that the few residents who needed to drive in and out could do so. We actually had lots of mums wearing a high viz so that children could see them. Everybody loved it.

Any advice for others considering a play street?

I would say just do it! It gives more confidence and sense of belonging. A tower block is a very isolating space. It can be depressing. This is an opportunity to connect and for people to come together. It also gives a feeling of 'this is our road' and 'we can do this' that people take away. Children have even started seeing roads or other spaces and saying: "can we do it there too?"!

TRUE OR FALSE?

Not all news is based on truth. Do you think this story is based on true or false news?

Japanese people all have to take part in a special radio exercise routine every time it is broadcast.



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