



Craig Whittaker MP

CALDER VALLEY

www.craigwhittakermp.co.uk

To Whom It May Concern

Our ref: GR86/CW/PB

20 November 2012

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Blackshaw Play Area Group

I am writing to you in support of the above group which is campaigning instigate new play facilities within the Blackshaw Head area of Calderdale. The members of this group have come together to take on the responsibility of trying to improve their local environment for the benefit of the community.

They are currently working with officers of Calderdale Council to ensure that their plans are sustainable and also comply with Health and Safety regulations. The group has ascertained from the local community that there is a need for this and it has the community's support.

I heartily support their proposals. Children need to be kept happy and healthy and a playground can provide such an environment. Playground equipment gets them moving about and having fun at the same. It also helps children to gain self-confidence by mastering the apparatus thus also raising their self-esteem. Playgrounds also encourage imaginative play and also how to co-operate with others.

Childhood obesity is now a key public health issue. Obese children are at increased risk of developing acute medical and chronic illnesses such as osteoarthritis which can lead to a poor quality of life. Playgrounds can help to encourage children to move away from a sedentary lifestyle which can lead to them being overweight.

Children spend many hours indoors and do not get the fresh air they need. Playgrounds offer outside activities whatever the season. Going outdoors on a regular basis promotes health and wellbeing.

The group has shown great initiative and has worked hard to raise funds. They have worked with the local community by ascertaining their views and building up support for the scheme. I would ask you to look favourably on their grant application as the plans would help to enhance the environment and improve local facilities which would benefit not only the children but the community in general.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP

Westminster Office
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA
t: 020 7219 7031 f: 020 7219 1054
craig.whittaker.mp@parliament.uk

Constituency Office
1st Floor, Spring Villa
16 Church Lane, Brighouse HD6 1AT
t: 01484 711 260 f: 01484 718 288
office@craigwhittakermp.co.uk