Dear neighbours,

On behalf of a group of neighbours, I would like to invite you to an informal street discussion to chat about the possibility of organising ‘playing out’ sessions on our street. This would involve applying to the council and closing the road to through traffic for a few hours, either after school or at the weekend, to give children a chance to play out safely. It would also be an opportunity for all of us to enjoy being out in our street, to meet and chat and get to know each other.

We would like to provide children the chance to play safely near home and also try to make the street generally safer and friendlier for everyone. Hopefully residents without young children will also enjoy having the street free of traffic for this time. Sessions like this are happening all over the UK. Parents will be responsible for their own children at all times. Please visit [www.playingout.net](http://www.playingout.net) to find out more.

If you would like to talk about this idea, please come join us on **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.** We are keen to get as many views as possible so we can try to reflect the street’s wishes in whatever is agreed.

If you have comments or questions at this point, please let me know by writing to the address below. Please include your address in correspondence.

Best wishes,

**10 Good Reasons for Street Play**

1. Children need and have a right to play. It is vital for their **physical, emotional and social development**.

2. Children need to experience **free play**, when they follow their own ideas and interests.

3. Children like to play **near home** where they don’t need to rely on adults to take them anywhere.

4. Children need space to play **energetically**. City gardens are usually too small and many children don’t have **independent access** parks.

5. Playing in the street increases **community cohesion** and a sense of **collective responsibility** for children’s wellbeing and safety.

6. Children develop **friendships** outside school and across age groups.

7. Through dealing with situations independently, children can learn valuable **social skills**.

8. Playing in the street allows for **‘semi-supervised’ play** while parents get on with their normal life.

9. The street is the “starting point for all journeys” (Tim Gill, 2007) and street play is a step towards greater **independent mobility** – to visit friends, go to the park or walk to school.

10. Streets constitute the vast majority of **public space** in the city and should be for everyone, not just cars!