

Firstly, thank you for hearing our petition and allowing us to share our views and passions about the Mill adventure playground in Bewbush with you all.

Since starting the petition. I have gained support from Dan at Spotted Media Services, Dean at Sessions Radio, and the team at Delta Security Management to form the community initiative that has supported and helped drive this campaign to Save the Mill at Bewbush.

As a community collaboration we believe that the Mill is worth saving. It is the hub of a diverse town and provides vital services to families who need them.

It is also a safe place for our future generations to grow, learn and develop in a safe and positive environment.

As a hub, we believe that these services should be handed back to the community to run and support, in collaboration with various volunteer networks and businesses that are passionate about what they stand for.

With new developments of houses and neighbourhoods being built all over Crawley it seems ludicrous that they start removing facilities to support these communities.

Crawley is such a diverse town with lots of different cultures living and growing together all needing very different supports. A hub like the Adventure playground can be used to help families when they are at their most vulnerable. Having kids is the hardest job in the world and having somewhere to go to just meet and talk to other parents and carers is such a relief and a support. Knowing you are not the only one in a situation or talking best practices can mean the making not breaking of a parent!

For the older children it's a place of safety, so they are not hanging out at the local shopping parades, or the streets getting into trouble. Its somewhere we can offer life skills, support, and most of all memories of a great childhood for them.

We are proposing to support this community-based initiative, not only in the short term, however for future generations, just like the previous generations have benefitted from before.

The decision to close the Mill, which covers a much wider catchment would affect the following areas: Bewbush, Ifield, Gossops Green, Broadfield, Kilnwood Vale and not excluding the wider community in Crawley.

To remove these services as they stand would affect such a large area of these communities and future generations of the town, we just can't support the council's decision and urge that we work with you to make the Community initiative a feasible option.

We aim to prove and show that his facility is required for the future generations of the community. Run by the community for the community and the greater good of our town. We want to offer life skills to kids who may not have that opportunity in other environments and who may find that the environment of the hub is more absorbing. It needs to be a safe place for kids and families alike and a place where the community can come together to support each other and celebrate.

Its also more than just saving the site, its also securing it for future generations. Its about investing in our future communities who will become our employees, business owners, leaders and they will in turn continue to make Crawley a place to stay and be proud of. The site needs to be self-sufficient, giving an opportunity for local businesses to contribute to the site, offering services in childcare, advise and support all in the name of giving back.

The site has so much potential which we want to expand on this. Working with local business and organisations we can offer more services and support through planned activities, and events. Through local media and social media these events can reach a wider audience and into communities that may not know about the services it can offer.

The community and local business feel that the Mill needs to be saved for the future generations of the town. If we can make the Mill work as per our plan, we can then roll this strategy out at other sites so safe places to play can be available for anyone to access.

In conclusion, we are not going away, and we are going to fight to keep this facility open for the community run by the community, for the benefit of the community.