

Petitioner:	Ann Cummings
Petition:	Meridian Adventure Play Centre is at risk of being closed by Greenwich Council.
Number of signatures:	401
The petition read as follows:	The Meridian Adventure Play Centre is not just a park - it's a safe, free, and much-loved community space. A space where children and young people of all abilities come together to get away from their screens, run around, laugh and explore. It is a space where parents, the elderly and others come together to have a coffee, talk and find support. We are asking Greenwich council to fulfil their responsibility to the residents of Greenwich by continuing to keep one of the few remaining neighbourhood spaces open, staffed and free. Please signify your support by signing our petition. Why It Matters Greenwich Council's Wellbeing strategy focuses on "a fairer healthier Greenwich using communities as the heart of a collaboration between Greenwich Council, the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sectors and local people" (1). Of the residents in the Greenwich Creekside ward, 20% are children under 15 years of age. Over 30% are from single households. If the council is serious about wanting to focus on improving mental and physical health and avoid extremist views, it is the children who attend the Meridian Adventure Play Centre (age 7-17) that need these services. These are the children that need to spend less time on screens, increase their physically activity and improve their social skills. Adventure playgrounds are unique, they are imaginative spaces where children can climb, jump, swing, run, play and explore, in ways that build confidence, coordination, balance, perspective and resilience all the while developing their physical and mental stamina. The five Adventure Play Centres in Greenwich borough are the places where Greenwich Council should

	be investing to lower costs in both health and mental care. Within walking distance of students from three local primary schools, the Meridian Adventure Play Centre is accessed on average by 40 students per day, five days a week, many with disabilities who come from all income levels. Local residents want to run coffee mornings, elderly groups, pop up thrift shops and various other events at the centre. There is no question there is demand for the services offered by the Meridian Adventure Play Centre by residents in the most populated ward in the borough. At Meridian Adventure Play Centre, kids enjoy: - o Exciting outdoor play – rope swings, climbing frames, walkways, organised play, football and more - o Creative indoor activities – arts and crafts, table tennis, pool, board games, and even quiet homework space - o Skilled playworkers – trained staff ensure play is safe, welcoming, and inclusive for all children - o Completely free access – so every child, no matter their family's income, can come as often as they like For decades this has been a lifeline for families — giving children the freedom to play outdoors safely, make friends, build confidence, and feel part of their community. The Threat Now, this vital hub is under threat of closure due to council budget cuts. If it goes, it's gone forever - taking with it not just a playground, but: - o A safe haven for local kids - o A meeting place for families and neighbours - o A piece of our shared history, culture, and community spirit In a city where children are increasingly stuck indoors and behind screens, this kind of play is essential. It supports mental health, social skills, and physical activity. Closing it will harm
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	children's wellbeing and leave many families with nowhere safe to go.
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Cabinet Member:	Equality, Culture & Communities
Ward(s):	Greenwich Creekside
Directorate:	DCEC

Submitted to Council on:	29 October 2025
Presented by:	Councillor Majella Anning

I. **Petition Response**

- I.1 I am Councillor Sandra Bauer, Cabinet Member for Equality, Culture and Communities.
- I.2 We thank Councillor Anning for presenting the petition on behalf of Ann Cummings, relating to Meridian Adventure Play Centre.
- I.3 It was agreed by Cabinet and Full Council in February 2025 to make a series of budget reductions as part of the council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).
- I.4 We understand the need to provide facilities for young people to play, have fun, socialise, relax and enjoy in their local area and this will be reflected in the proposals, having firmly taken on the views of our residents and stakeholders.

2 **Current actions being taken in relation to matter raised in petition**

- 2.1 The consultation on the transformation of the youth play offer has now concluded and the feedback received is informing the final proposals.
- 2.2 No decision has yet been made regarding Meridian Adventure Play Centre. A report will be presented to Cabinet at the end of January 2026 for a decision on the future of all Adventure Play Centres.
- 2.3 The recommendation for Meridian is to transform the site into a community youth hub from October 2026, which would continue to provide activities and services for children and young people in the local area.