



Nottingham children worried about the cuts ask the Queen for help

Children who attend the Crabtree After School Club in Bulwell, Nottingham are so worried that the cuts may affect their club that they've written to the Queen.

The club, known as Crabtree Play, is run by the Bulwell Community Toy Library at the Crabtree Farm Community Centre on Steadfold Close in Bulwell during term time and in the holidays, giving children aged from 5 to 13 years the chance to enjoy a range of fun activities with their friends.

Nottingham City Council currently funds the club, and the club is waiting to hear if this funding will continue next year.

Steve Parkinson from the toy library explains:

"We're hoping that the council will carry on funding the club as without their help, we couldn't afford to keep it going.

The children have picked up on the cuts from watching television or from listening to their parents for example, and they're worried that the cuts could affect the club, even though we don't know if this will be the case or not as yet.

Interestingly, most children chose to write to the Queen as they see her as having influence over what the Government does, and they're aware that the cuts are being imposed by the Government, even though our funding comes from Nottingham City Council.

I think that shows a remarkable amount of imagination and insight."

One letter, written by 9-year-old Nicole Szmigelskyj from Bulwell said:

"Dear Queen Eizabeth, I go to the after school club and we call it that because we go to it after school on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, on a Monday you have to be 9 to 13 years old. On a Tuesday and a Thursday it is 5 to 13 years old. We do arts and crafty stuff and lots of things. If your parlement takes the club off us we would propley be in danger now or making trouble on the street. We would be bored and we would not be able to see our friends from other schools. So please, please don't take the after school club off us. And hope you have a good time at the wedding of your grand son."



14-year-old Courtney Newton from Bulwell, who has been going to the club for nine years, also wrote to the Queen saying:

"There is not a lot of money on our estate and we don't have a lot of opportunities for us young people as it is, please don't let us lose our funding."

Another letter, written by Tamara aged 9, Kayleigh aged 7, Morgan aged 7, Sheldon aged 8, Sherice aged 8 and Tyna aged 8 said:

"Dear Queen Elibeas, we don't want club to close because we have learnt so many stuff. We wouldn't have anything to do. If we didn't have a club we will be boud (bored). There would be nowhere to have fun or playing with our friends. If we didn't have club werd (we'd) be sitting at home getting fat. I like playing with my friends. Please tell your government don't take are money. You are the best queen."

Whilst 5-year-old Billy wrote:

"To the Queen, we love you please help us keep our club."

The children have also written to the Editor of the Nottingham Evening Post saying:

"Dear Editor, we are children from Crabtree After School Club. We have wrote a letter to the Queen and Parlement asking that she can help us keep our money for club, please can you put our letters in your evening post so that everyone can see what we put and how important it is for us to keep our club."

Another letter, addressed to Jon Collins said:

"Dear Mr Colins, we don't want club to close because it's the best thing that has ever happened to us."

Steve Parkinson concludes:

"It's great to know how much the club means to the children and it's important for them to have a say and express their views in their own words. Fingers crossed the club will stay open."

The club also runs special sessions just for girls, aged from 9 to 13, on Friday evenings during term time at the Children's Centre on Steadfold Close in Bulwell.



Plus, it provides specialist support for disabled children and those with additional needs, so that they can join in activities with their friends.

The club has sent all the children's letters to the Queen.

**To find out more please call Steve Parkinson on 0115 975 3898
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