

## **Totterdown community group short-listed for a chance of £80,000 lottery cash**

Totterdown residents have made it onto the final shortlist for the Big Lottery Fund and ITV's public voting competition The People's Millions today (Wednesday 31st November), and with public support they could receive £80 000 to improve a run-down green space on School Road.

School Road Park in Totterdown is one of eight projects which will appear on ITV West. The project will be televised on 27 November, when the viewers will have the final say on where lottery money is spent.

With only four old swings and one slide, the park which serves hundreds within this tight-knit community would hugely benefit from the funding, and the lives of the local children would be transformed.

Local mum and project leader Alice Pollet said "Totterdown is a fantastic community, but we really lack a good outdoor space to meet and for our children to play in. Often after school there is a queue of kids waiting for one go on the old slide, and the lack of facilities really affects the amount of time these kids can spend in the park. Outdoor play is such an important part of growing up, and this is an incredible opportunity for us. It really shows what a community can achieve when it pulls together, and with the public's votes we can give our kids the park that they deserve."

The project will aim to create a well used and well loved green space for the local community, using as many natural and sustainable materials as possible. As well as providing new and exciting play equipment, there will be additional seating throughout the park and artists will create sculptures with the local school, Hillcrest Primary, where the children are also voting to choose the final playground design.

The project began about six months ago when a group of local parents became concerned about the lack of decent play facilities in the area. Alice comments: "It seemed that if you wanted to go to a good play park you had to travel, most of them are over in North Bristol, and we really wanted to change this. We believe that Totterdown deserves so much more than an old, unattractive park as the heart of the community. The project has already brought the community closer, and if we win this funding it will completely transform everyone's lives, especially those of the local children. They really deserve a decent park they can play in and that their families and friends can walk to, but we can't do any of this without the public's votes. That's why we are asking Bristol and beyond to watch The People's Millions on ITV West on Tuesday November 27 and to vote for School Road Park, only their votes can make our project happen."

There are eight projects in total. Two go head to head each night for four nights. The project that receives the most votes each night wins, and in addition there is a bonus award given to the runner up with the highest number of votes.

Anyone can vote for School Road Park on Tuesday 27 November by logging on to [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/peoplesmillions](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/peoplesmillions) to find out the telephone numbers on 27 November from 9am, and lines will open from this time.

## **Notes for Editors**

1. The contest will hit regional ITV screens between 26 and 30 November 2007, when viewers will be able to vote by telephone or text the projects they want to win in their ITV region.

2. A reminder on the morning of the show to vote for School Road Park with the number to call is available by emailing [alicecabanass@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:alicecabanass@blueyonder.co.uk) stating whether you would like a reminder by email or text, including all necessary phone numbers.

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