

Play streets

Making TROs accessible and resident-led

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Playing Out
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Photo credit: Angie Page





- **2009**
First resident-led play street in Bristol
- **2011**
The Temporary Play Street Order (TPSO) was born
- **2011- today**
The movement grows and grows
- **2019**
DfT wrote to all councils endorsing play streets
- **2021**
85 council areas have TPSOs, over 1200 streets have played out



Why did they start this movement?







Exercise & fresh air

Skills & confidence

Freedom & independence

Imagination & creativity

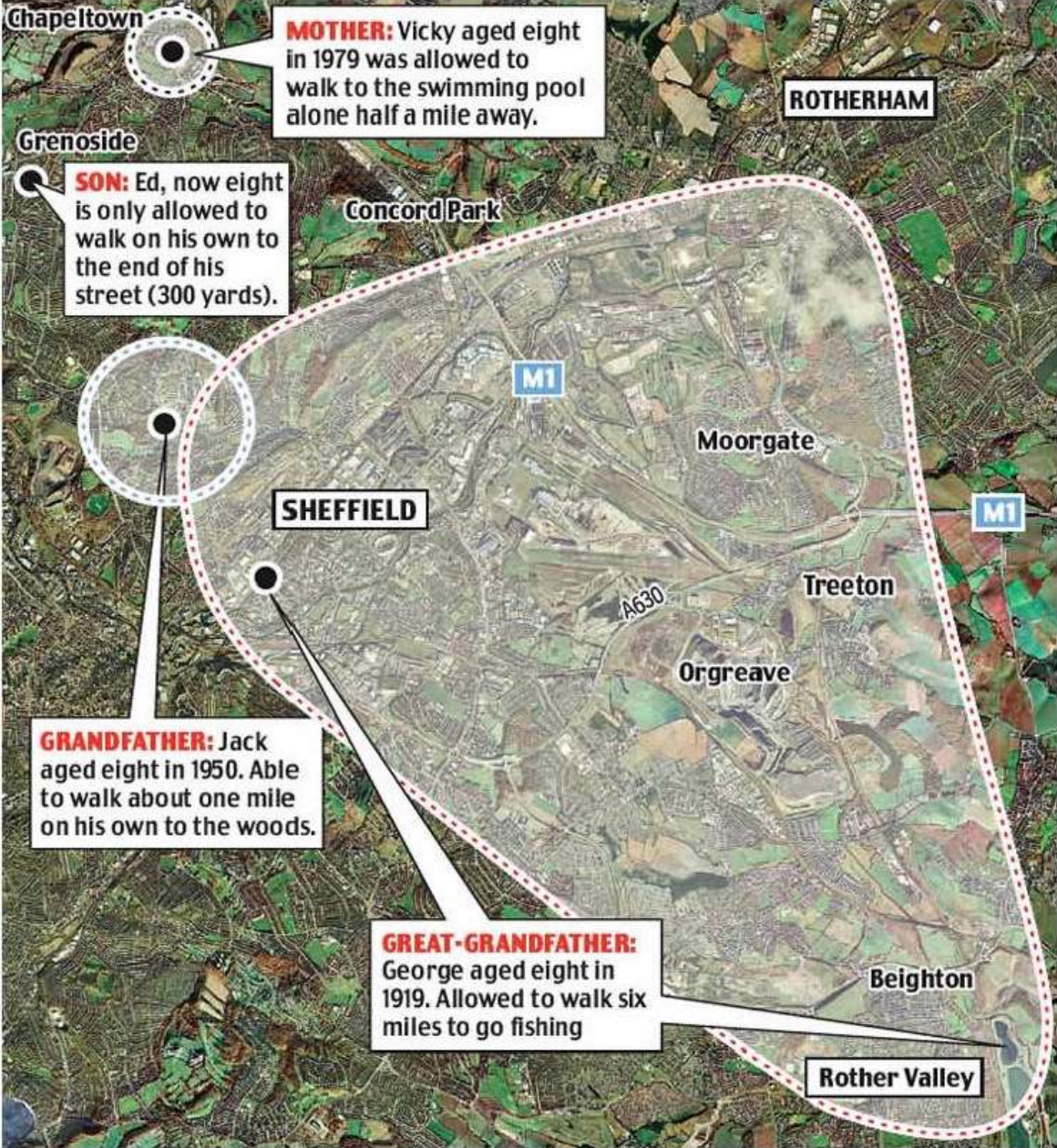
Community & belonging

Friendship

Resilience.....etc., etc.

Oh, and fun!!!

Today



Children's
freedom
to roam
has
shrunk



Image: Daily Mail

“71% of adults played out in the street or neighbourhood as children, compared to only 21% of children today” (Playday Survey 2007).



“Three-quarters of UK children spend less time outside than prison inmates”

(Persil poll 2016)



Why?

Traffic = number one concern preventing parents letting their children play outside independently
(Playday Survey 2013)

Other specific barriers in areas of disadvantage, housing estates and tower blocks



What are play streets?

- regular, low key street closures for free play on the doorstep
- organised by residents
- sometimes with extra support from local organisations
- and permission from local authority

Bristol City Council
Application for Temporary Play Street Order
(Town & Police Clauses Act 1847)

Important – please read carefully!

1. Please use this form only if you wish to apply for a temporary Play Street road closure Order. This Order will permit you to close a road for the purpose of childrens play at no more than weekly intervals and for a 12 month period from the Order start date. If you are not sure that these are the correct forms for your event please contact Highway Network Management on (0117) 9036857. (This application process is



What are the benefits?



Children get more exercise from play than from time spent at clubs and organised activities.





Why do councils support playing out?

Children's physical and mental health

Community cohesion - resilience - overcoming loneliness

Safer streets - active travel – liveable neighbourhoods

And...

Low cost

Resident-led

High-impact

Sustainable



DfT endorsement for play streets



<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/section-16-temporary-traffic-regulation-orders-for-special-events/temporary-traffic-regulation-orders-for-special-events>




4. Play streets

There is a specific power to close roads for children's play under section 29 of the RTRA. However, the requirement to advertise s29 orders makes them prohibitively expensive for parents. For this reason, special event orders (which do not need to be advertised) are increasingly being used for this purpose. Play streets are not only good for the health and well-being of children, they also encourage other residents to get together, leading to increased adult activity and greater community cohesion. For information about organising play streets, contact [Playing Out CIC](#).

As play streets are frequent events, it would be impracticable to submit individual consent applications for each repeat closure. However, it is possible to apply for repeat closures using a single consent application. Moreover, it can cover multiple closures in more than one road. It is therefore possible to use a single consent application to close several roads repeatedly for children's play over any 12 month period. For example, it could cover:

- closing road A every Saturday and Sunday between 14.00 and 16.00
- closing road B every Saturday between 13.00 and 16.00
- closing road C every Sunday

Temporary Play Street Order (TPSO)

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Playing out on your street

A Temporary Play Street Order (TPSO) lets residents close a street to traffic so children can play.

You can apply to shut your street as often as once a week for up to three hours.

You need to apply at least 8 weeks before your first playing out session.

You'll need to send us:

Temporary road closures and traffic restrictions

Guide to closing a road for a street party or event

Playing out

Guide to road closure signs, direction signs and banners

Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTROs) notices

Current roadworks and road





Support from Playing Out

4 simple steps videos

Organiser manual

Templates to download

Supportive network of parents/
residents

Would you open this letter?





What's next for devolving power?





Thank you!

Get in touch:

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See all our free resources at
playingout.net

