

## **Audio transcripts: Weavers Adventure Playground**

### **Clip 1 (Errol):**

Errol: I've got a good friend whose mum was part of the, the original group of people that set this up. And, yeah, so, it was set up in 1974, because they wanted the kids to have somewhere green to play, in a controlled environment, not just go to a park. And so they spotted this bit of land. And, then they approached the Council, and then the Council... No first... Yeah, the Council then say to them, 'Yeah, you can have it on, we'll lease you the land.' And they raised the 60,000, they raised £60,000, the parents raised £60,000 to actually build this building. So that's how Weavers started.

Interviewer: So, it's very much, it belongs to the community?

Errol: Yes.

Interviewer: It's very much a grassroots organisation.

Errol: Yes. Yeah. And we want to keep it that way. We want it to be, I mean, in the community, for the community.

### **Clip 2 (Brian):**

If it wasn't for Oxford House, Weavers wouldn't be here. You know? It wouldn't be here, you know? And they, they saw an opportunity of putting a playground in with, you know, totem pole for kids to climb up and that, and, basically, for the first few years there were climbing ropes and that, that's all that was here. And then, they got a committee to raise the funds for those, for this building, and my mother and father was on that committee to raise the funds for this building.

### **Clip 3 (Jack):**

Interviewer: So, what do you think is the purpose of an adventure playground then?

Jack: To, to be adventurous, to try, to be, to have fun, to make things, to meet people. To, to balance your ideas and thoughts off of another human being, instead of being alone, at home, on your computer, thinking something. But if you're with a friend, and you talk about it, you get a balanced idea of things, a balanced conversation, or you hear what, you know, what the adults might say, and you balance that off what your mum said, you know. You start to build your little network in your mind of understanding and consciousness, you know?

### **Clip 4 (Steve):**

Yeah. I can remember, one of the teenagers that came here, Racky[sp], and we would always talk. Because he was at that age of moving on, you know, towards adulthood, towards getting a job. And I can remember the discussions that we had about, what he wanted to do. And he didn't know what he wanted to do. You know, he, he loved calligraphy. And he'd come in all the time with letters that he had created himself, and formed. And so he had, he started to get the

ambition of, 'Right, my interest could actually do me well in terms of future work,' you know. And again, that was, you know, we nurtured that, you know. So we'd encourage his creativity.

**Clip 5 (Valerie Thompson):**

I just remember them being really kind, really kind, and happy. Smiley. Which was different from school and teachers. I don't really remember my teachers being particularly smiley and happy, but I do remember... Any of the community stuff I went to, that was the difference, that the adults, were happy. Which really makes a difference, doesn't it, when you're a kid, and you're seeing adults smiling and enthusiastic, and, laughing, and, you know, it makes such a difference I think.

**Clip 6 (Linda Kelly):**

You never called them aunty or uncle, but that's how it felt, you know. I don't ever, ever remember once thinking, I can't go and talk to them, you know, or... I can remember my cousin was twelve, and I was ten, and she actually started her period in the place, in Weavers. And we went, and it was like, 'Yeah, it's fine, come,' you know. And then... It was just family, really really family-orientated.

I can remember having... One of the pictures I really want to get for you is us on the beach, and I'm on Frank's shoulders, and, you just didn't... You know, I couldn't see the kids doing that at school, with their teachers, or anything, or anywhere.