

Mount Pleasant Road

Annual Village Meeting

Saturday 13th January

3.00 - 4.30 p.m.

Meeting Notes

Present: Baljeet (8), Kusam (15), Kala (19), Jude & Vic (35), Christian (41), Natasha (44), Laura & Louis (51), Ali and Rafi (54), Chloe (76), Jeannie (83), Ondine & James (84), Pat & Martin (90), Barrie & Heidi (107)

1. Apologies

Anna (7), Debs (9), Natasha (30), Fiona & Howard (33), Misha (34), Lynda (81), Fra (88), Simin (96)

2/3. Improving Life in Mount Pleasant Road

Asked to identify the one thing that would make the biggest difference to their lives in Mount Pleasant Road, people mentioned:

- Smooth & safe pavements
- Reduced car crime
- Meetings with police to discuss security
- More trees
- A communication system that reaches everybody
- More people joining in activities
- Coffee mornings for retired people
- A stronger sense of community as a result of us knowing each other better

4. Greening Mount Pleasant Road

James reported that 92% of residents who responded to our survey said they wanted more trees, and 83% that they would, or might, contribute to the cost of purchasing them.

Jeannie pointed out that there was an issue with ensuring the trees were well looked after. She added that her desire was for there to be more planting in our communal spaces.

James reported that we had identified 36 spaces where we could plant new trees - 6 in vacant tree holes, 8 where the existing tree had a short life expectancy because it was sick or damaged, 22 where we would need to open up new tree holes.

Laura & Louis expressed their enthusiasm for moving forward a strategy for self-funding new trees, starting with the 6 vacant tree holes.

Jeannie reported that she would be meeting with Ryan Hack, one of our two councillors, on Friday 26th January, to discuss how we could move forward our plan for greening the street. Everyone at the meeting was invited to attend.

5. Making our Street Safer

James reported that reducing crime and anti-social behaviour is a council priority for Brondesbury Park, and suggested that we could apply to the Community Grant for funding that linked this agenda to our desire for a greener and even more pleasant street: our argument could be that one way of addressing low-level crime would be to build an even friendlier neighbourhood, where we look out for each other and protect the places where we live. .

Jude said that the meetings of the Residents Association which she used to run were always well attended when the police were there. She suggested we revive this practice.

Natasha suggested liaising with the Safer Neighbourhoods Team to organise this.

6. Plan for Street Party 2024

There was a discussion about how we could generate more enthusiasm for collective dancing. It was agreed that the likely answer was booking a livelier band than we had in 2023, led by someone with personality.

7. Other events and activities

Ondine said she was keen to organise a Table Tennis Tournament. There was a discussion about whether this should take place as a series of games in people's houses, or as a big event in Henley Road.

James asked how we could make Festive Lights more inclusive, so that people did not see it as just an Advent Festival. It was agreed that we would keep the December focus, but invite people to have special celebrations of Diwali and Hanukkah to which they invited their neighbours.

There was not a lot of enthusiasm for Play Streets: it was felt that they involved too much organisation.

Natasha warned against trying to organise too many activities.

8. Formal Business

- The minutes of the last meeting were approved
- The accounts and annual report were approved
- The following officers were re-elected:
 - Kusam Pal - co-chair
 - Pat Beard - co-chair
 - Christian Williamson - treasurer
 - James Park - secretary

9. Next Meeting:

Saturday 11th January 2025, 3.00 - 4.30 p.m.