

Mount Pleasant Road
Annual Village Meeting

Saturday 11th January, 2025

Meeting Notes

Present: Baljeet (8), Kusam (15), Jeannie (83), Ondine & James (84), Pat & Martin (90), Barrie, Heidi & Alice (107), Natasha & Jonathan (30), Mark & Monica (36), Lisa (40), Dinah (37)

1. Apologies

Victoria (11), Laura (51), Fra (88)

2. Greener - Trees for Our Road

Jeannie thanked everybody for their contributions to the Trees for our Road fund. This enabled us to plant 39 trees in October. We need to raise another £2,000 to cover the 12 trees we plan to plant this spring.

She will organise a Street Walk in the spring to identify the trees, and make a plan for their future care. It was agreed that this should happen on a weekend afternoon in March or April.

We are also planning to pull up a slab on each side of each tree, so that we can put in good soil and plant around them. A team of people will be needed to help with this.

Our plan is to use no fertiliser, only natural compost that stimulates beneficial micro-organisms.

We agreed to set up a WhatsApp Group for those who are happy to keep an eye on one or more trees, and do whatever is necessary to ensure they thrive.

3. Safer - Islands of Calm

Monica and Kusam talked about the dangers presented by our uneven pavements, and how this made it difficult for them to go out.

James said that we were faced with a conundrum: the Council was responsible for the maintenance of our pavements. However, without the funds to do all the re-pavementing needed in Brent, it will be difficult to get them to do more than patch and mend the most damaged area of our street.

The Islands of Calm proposal is part of our strategy for addressing this conundrum.

The proposal is that we will apply for external funding to build out into the road at particular points - making it single-lane and creating space for additional planting (possibly in planter boxes. These spaces can be used as gathering places for residents and their children (but without seating that might lure in people from outside). The idea is that this will discourage people from:

- using our road as a late-night drag-racing track
- patrolling the street during the day to case our houses
- harassing our womenfolk from the safety of their scooters

It would also fit with Brent's policy of supporting the development of green neighbourhoods. We will request assistance from the Council with public consultation, estimation, site surveys, construction design, co-ordination and implementation of works.

Some concerns were expressed about ensuring this proposal was carefully thought through. People were assured that there would be a full consultation before any work was started. And the project might be done in stages.

Other elements of our strategy are:

- Pulling up some of the uglier asphalt as part of our process of enlarging tree holes;
- Possibly using any liberated slabs to replace the worst of the broken ones
- Taking responsibility for our own driveways, particularly when damaged by contractor lorries - the council will put in block paving for a fee
- Agreeing together that we are happy for the council to instal a resin surface between the driveways, and then asking them to do so

4. Friendlier - Street Party 2025

For the past three years, a lot of the Street Party organisation was carried out by two people who are no longer living in the street, Christian and Chloe. Ali (54) and Victoria (11) have taken on the task or enrolling people to take over their responsibilities, particularly as relates to liaison with the council, sound systems, street management and organising events for kids. <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/DT56XG/>

5. Even More Pleasant - litter & flytipping

Natasha described how distressing she found it to walk down the street and find that people had dumped stuff in it. She said she was happy to do litter-picking herself, and wanted to help create a culture in which people automatically either picked stuff up, or reported any fly-tipping to the Council so that things were collected.

6. Making it happen - what might you contribute?

People volunteered for the following:

- Tree Caretaking: Lisa, Mark, Martin, Pat
- Litter-picking: Martin, Natasha
- Delivering flyers: Dinah, Lisa, Mark, Natasha
- Treehole enlargement - Jonathan

7. Formal Business

- The minutes of the last meeting were approved
- The accounts and annual report were approved
- The following officers were elected:

Natasha Gale - chair

James Davis - treasurer (tbc)

James Park - secretary

9. Next Meeting:

We will consult on the best date for the next meeting.