

**MPR - Our Village**

**Annual Report 2023**



**Celebrating our Community**  
**Having fun together**  
**Looking out for each other**  
**Finding collective solutions to shared challenges**

**Registered Address**

84 Mount Pleasant Road  
Brondesbury Park  
NW10 3EJ

**Website**

[www.mpr-ourvillage.org](http://www.mpr-ourvillage.org)

**Telephone**

0771 201 3172

**Officers - 2023**

Co-chairs - Kusam Pal (15) & Pat Beard (90)

Treasurer - Christian Williamson (41)

Secretary - James Park (84)

**Bank Account**

Metro Bank

A/C No: 49537808

Sort Code: 23-05-80

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## History

MPR-Our Village was formed on Sunday 20th March 2022 when eight residents came together and decided to hold a street party on Sunday 5th June as a way of celebrating the Queens Jubilee.

Meeting regularly thereafter to plan the Street Party, we began discussing ways of building on what turned out to be a very successful event in order to make our street safer and more like a village.

We ran an online survey at the beginning of 2023 which identified the following key issues:

- A high-level of criminality - irksome, unsettling and unacceptable
- A social geography that does not encourage face-to-face contact and neighbourly relationships
- Cracked, uneven and asphalt-blotted pavements that are ugly, dangerous to walk on and communicate the impression that we are people who do not care about our neighbourhood
- Long stretches that are without trees, or have trees that are damaged, unhealthy, damaged or inappropriate for their location

In order to more effectively start addressing these issues, we constituted ourselves as a community group on the 13th January 2023, and opened an account with the Metro Bank.

Our purpose is to build and celebrate our community by creating opportunities for us to:

- have fun together
- look out for each other
- find collective solutions to shared challenges, including safety and security

Everyone resident in Mount Pleasant Road is to be a member of Mount Pleasant Road - Our Village. All members are entitled to attend meetings and take part in any votes, with each resident over the age of eight having one vote.

## What We Have Done So Far

Held two **Street Parties** - on the 5th June 2022 and the 10th September 2023 - which were attended by people of all ages and ethnicities from every part of Mount Pleasant Road.



**Surveyed** the whole street to find out about their experience of living in Mount Pleasant Road, and explore their views on how to make it an even better place in which to live.

Our Village: Trees, Security and Street Party Survey

**1. Introduction**

This survey is designed to gather your thoughts on three topics:

1. Preventing crime in Mount Pleasant Road
2. Trees: what we want and how we will fund
3. Having a great Street Party this summer (Sunday 18th June)

Although these might seem to be different topics, there may turn out to be a link between them: the better we know each other, the lovelier our road, and the more fun we have together, the more creative we can be in coming up with ways to stop people from mugging our children, stealing our cars, dumping stuff in our streets and doing drug deals in our neighbourhood

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1. Please describe any crimes you have experienced in Mount Pleasant Road over the past three years, with approximate dates if possible.  
(This information will not be used without your permission, only to inform an overall picture of crime in our road.)

**Celebrated the festive season** in December by lighting up our houses, and singing together.



**Started developing a strategy** for making Mount Pleasant Road a safer place to live by making it more neighbourly and attractive. See page 9.



## Issue 1: Safety & Security

Over the past three years, there have been frequent reports of cars being stolen, cars being broken into, tools being stolen from vans and houses being renovated.

More than that, there is a sense that people are regularly patrolling our street on the hunt for easy pickings.

The challenge we face is that:

- We are a wide road - so it is easy to be invisible
- Footfall is low - we are not an obvious route to anywhere, and the way many of us live makes it possible to have a home in the road and never step on it
- The maintenance of our pavements make it look like we don't care
- Many houses have attractive un-gated forecourts

Some of the ideas we have explored to address this are:

- Paying a security company to patrol the street at night
- Securing funding for the repair and de-uglification of our pavements
- Self-funding ways to make it evident that we do care - posters, trees, planting *et. al.*
- Looking for ways to narrow the street with the creation of social spaces.
- Making the footfall we have (dogwalkers, Cuore visitors & people making up their 10,000 steps by doing business calls as the walk in the street *et. al.*) more purposive: showing that we are looking.
- Systematically collecting reports of criminal acts to make our case for a police presence, and to build a more accurate picture of what we are dealing with, perhaps leading to identification of who we we are dealing with.



## Issue 2: Pavements

In September 2022, Dorothy Judd (20) was walking to the doctors, tripped over some uneven paving stones and broke her wrist bone and knee cap. She had a leg brace and wrist plaster put on at the Royal Free Hospital, and spent four months recovering from the accident. Other cases have been reported of people breaking wrists on the road.

There are multiple causes for the unevenness of the pavements. These include ground movement, damage caused by builders' lorries, careless utility contractors and root growth resulting from poor tree management.

The Council will occasionally do patch-and-repair work when uneven paving has been reported to be a trip hazard. However, there is no proactive policy for levelling the pavement to prevent these problems occurring, and to address them before people are hurt hurt.

The manner of these repairs - with splodges of uneven tarmac - contribute to the uglification of Mount Pleasant Road, and give off the impression that residents do not care about their neighbourhood.

Our councillors Ryan Hack and Erica Gajumbo recently made an unsuccessful application to have Mount Pleasant Road repaved. We have been told that the astronomical cost of repaving the whole road means that this is very unlikely to happen.



### Issue 3: Trees

There are some beautiful trees in Mount Pleasant Road, which enormously enhance the area around them. However,

There are several long stretches of Mount Pleasant Road which are **treeless**:  
Okehampton Road - 3; 85-97; Sidmouth Road - 84; 72-66; 32-24; 22-10; 10-4; 2-0

There are three **unfilled tree holes**: 7, 95, 54

Trees outside the following houses have **cracked tarmac** : 33, 41, 45, 49, 73, 83, 105, 66, 52, 22, 17, 105, 25, 66 Sidmouth

Trees outside the following houses have **risen or sunken paving**: 48, 2, 85

Trees outside the following houses have **swollen roots**: 17, 32

Trees outside the following houses are **putting up shoots**: 29, 81, 32, 24, 13

Trees outside the following houses are either **damaged or unhealthy**: 84, 66, 44, 36, 2

There are **65 parking notice posts**, occupying spaces that could be filled by trees and sometimes were in the past. These posts have been positioned without attention to their relationships to the trees nearby. And there are eight places where these posts are anyway redundant because there is a lamp-post nearby that could have been used for signage.

Some argue that **inappropriate pruning strategies** have caused root disturbance, which has led to driveways being damaged.

There is currently no strategic programme for replacing damaged trees, and those trees that have been removed are only replaced on an *ad hoc* basis.



## Our Strategy

We are evolving a strategy to making Mount Pleasant Road a safer and more pleasant street to live in by:

- Working with Brent Council to evolve cost-effective way of sorting out the issues relating to trees and pavements - so that they are in a condition which communicates that people care about their street - and finding the funds with which to implement these
- Arranging activities that encourage face-to-face contact between neighbours, so that we know each other well enough to be able to identify strangers and intruders
- Arranging activities that enable neighbours to take care of the trees and the general condition of the street
- Installing street furniture which increases the likelihood that people will be out in the street, and it feels like a place where one might be identified and reported to the police
- Setting up systems for collecting all information relating to criminal acts, and people receiving the street for criminal acts, then ensuring this is shared with the police
- Getting children to design posters which communicate to criminals that they are unwelcome and we are watching them
- Finding recruits for StreetWatch - a patrol on schooldays between 3.30 and 5.30 - designed to prevent the mugging of young people

## Accounts

1 April 2022 - 30 September 2023

	2022-23	2023	2022
<b>Income</b>			
Brent	£1,500		£1,500
Sponsorship	£500	£500	£0
Donations	£2,364	£2,176	£394
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£4,570</b>	<b>£2,676</b>	<b>£1,894</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Council & Insurance	£382	£382	£0
Music & sound system	£1,260	£1,141	£120
Kids Stuff	£736	£240	£496
Tableware & Equipment	£882	£182	£700
Bunting & Flags	£579	£0	£579
Website	£108	£108	£0
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,947</b>	<b>£2,053</b>	<b>£1,894</b>
<b>Deficit/Surplus</b>	<b>£623</b>	<b>£623</b>	<b>£0</b>





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