

MPR - Our Village

Annual Report 2024



Celebrating our Community

Having fun together

Looking out for each other

Finding collective solutions to shared challenges

Registered Address

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Website

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Telephone

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Officers - 2024

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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Our Achievements - 2024

We held our third **Street Party** on the 23rd June



We arranged for 39 **new trees** to be planted



We celebrated the **Winter Festive season** by lighting up our houses and sharing refreshments with neighbours:



We celebrated the **Spring Festive Season** by decorating our pavements:



We arranged for the removal of the 16 **parking notice posts** in places where signage could be removed to a nearby lamp-post, or there was more than one post in a bay.



Plans and Goals

Building Community: Reducing Crime

The following crimes were reported on the Mount Pleasant Watch WhatsApp Group, and to the police, during 2024:

- 27 June - Harrassment by man on scooter - 01/525671/24
- 8 April - House burgled. Cards, cash & laptop taken. 01/192262/24
- 10 March - House broken into, car keys found, van stolen with tools - 01/69704/24
- 23 January: Window broken in, attempted burglary; unable to gain entry

Elements in our evolving strategy for reducing crime include:

1. Setting up systems for collecting all information relating to criminal acts and ensuring this is shared with the police
2. Working with Brent Council to evolve cost-effective ways of improving the quality of our collective spaces, and finding the funds with which to implement these: so communicating that we care about our street
3. 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
4. Building islands of calm (see below) to increase 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
5. Getting children to design posters which beautify the street, while communicating to criminals that they are unwelcome and we are watching them

Improving Our Pavements

On 26th October, Laura@51 fell flat on her face because of the uneven pavements. Her friend's Dad fell also and needed 3 stitches on his chin.

In September 2022, Dorothy@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 reasons for the unevenness of our 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.



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.

Brent Council is aware of our desire that Mount Pleasant Road be re-pavemented. However, there are many more pavements that they would like to re-surface than there are funds available for doing so. The factors taken into account in deciding which pavements are relaid include:

- Condition based on outcomes of annual condition surveys and inspection programmes
- Roads hierarchy and traffic usage, including proximity of local schools and colleges
- Level of risk in terms of number of accident claims, historic pothole repair records and/or collision history

We need to keep on gathering evidence for the need to do more than patch and repair our pavements.

We also need to look for self-help solutions where we can. Residents can use [this link](#) to apply for council permission to upgrade their driveways using block paving.

Creating Islands of Calm

We have explored with the Council the possibility of taking out some parking bays to create areas of additional planting that can be used as gathering places for residents and their children (but without seating that might lure in people from outside).

As well as contributing to the greening and friendliness of Mount Pleasant Road, these would calm traffic in a way that might 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

- Using Henley Road as a goods yard, fly-tipping dump and drug dealing centre

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

Greening Our Road

The 39 trees planted in October were funded by contributions from residents.

A wide diversity of species was chosen in order to both contribute to the beauty of the street and help to ensure any diseases which come along do not take out more than a few of the overall stock.

Jeannie@83 is developing an active plan for maintaining the health of the trees both in the next two year as they establish themselves, and for many years after that.

We hope to plant another 12 trees in the spring of 2025. This will require some additional contributions from neighbours.

There will be a spring walking tour to learn more about our trees and enrol community support in maintaining the trees over coming years.

Removing Parking Notice Posts

We want to achieve the removal of the remaining parking notice posts and replace them with wall-based signage similar to that used in the Mapesbury Conservation Area.



Solomon Nere, Principal Engineer for Healthy Streets and Parking, has said it is impossible for us to self-fund putting up notices, but that he might be able to find the necessary funding. They would also require agreement from the Department for Transport. And it would be incumbent on us to secure agreement from all the property owners upon whose wall the new signage was going to be placed.

Enlarging Tree Holes

We have permission to enlarge the area around the new trees so as to allow for additional soil enrichment, and possibly some limited planting, as we have already done outside no. 45 where a tree fell in the spring.



Accounts

1 April 2022 - 31 December 2024

	2022-24	2024	2023	2022
<u>Income - Street Party/General</u>				
Brent	£1,500	£0	£0	£1,500
Sponsorship	£3,500	£3,000	£500	£0
Donations	£2,954	£590	£1,970	£394
Total	£7,954	£3,590	£2,470	£1,894
<u>Income - Trees for our Road</u>				
Donations	£11,555	£11,555		
Total Income	£19,509	£15,145	£2,470	£1,894
<u>Expenditure - Street Party</u>				
Council & Insurance	£781	£399	£382	£0
Music, stage & sound system	£4,740	£3,480	£1,141	£120
Kids Stuff	£766	£30	£240	£496
Tableware & Equipment	£882	£0	£182	£700
Bunting & Flags	£579	£0	£0	£579
Total	£7,748	£3,909	£1,945	£1,894
Balance	£206	-£319	£525	£0
<u>Expenditure- Trees for our Road</u>				
Purchase of Trees	£8,816	£8,816		
Goop - soil enricher	£656	£656		
Total	£9,472	£9,472		
Balance	£2,083	£2,083		
<u>Expenditure - General</u>	-			
Website	£250	£142	£108	£0
Total Balance	£2,039	£1,622	£417	£0

Our 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 mission is to make Mount Pleasant Road Safer, Greener, Friendlier and an Even More Pleasant Place in which to Live.

We build and celebrate our community by creating opportunities 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 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.



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