

**MPR-Our Village
Annual Village Meeting
Saturday 2st March, 2026
Meeting Notes**

Present: Peter (5), Karel (6), Janet & Yehuda (27), Natasha (30), Marina & Adam (39), James (44), Laura (51), David & Jackie (55), James (84), Shima (99), Heidi & Barrie (107)

Apologies: Baljeet (8), Ben (14), Kusam (15), Raphael (24), Branka (28), Jude & Vic (35), Kala (19), Lisa (40), Lucy (42), Ali (54), Jeannie (83), Fra (88), Pat (90), Ben (14), Jennifer (60)

A. Introduction:

Natasha said that we were meeting to establish how we could most effectively achieve what we all want for the street: for it to be Safer, Cleaner, Greener & Friendlier.

- **Safer** includes things like discouraging burglaries; reducing car speeds; repairing pavements
- **Cleaner** focuses on litter reduction and management, together with the removal of dog mess, so that we can all feel good about walking down our street
- **Greener** includes the further planting of trees; the care for the trees we've planted already; creating 'islands of calm' that will be planted bedding areas which also act as traffic calming areas
- **Friendlier** includes ideas on how to build an even stronger community so that we can be a resource for each other, tackle loneliness and help each other through tough times

B. Making collective decisions

James@84 started by observing that ideas are sometimes put forward for making our street an even more pleasant place to live in. These are then not taken forward because someone objects to them, or thinks we should do something else. Ideas like setting up a private security patrol, putting up signs asking people to put dog poo bags in our grey bins, or erecting electronic speed warning signs.

He suggested that a better approach might be to find a way of pooling all our ideas and thinking creatively about them. We might then come up with even better ideas that we could all get behind.

He proposed trying out some software that would gather our thoughts on what we see happening and what we want to change; enable us to look at what is emerging and come forward with our ideas for bringing about the changes that we want to see; then taking that through as many iterations as it takes to get to something that we all want to see happen.

He observed that we would have to make absolutely sure that everyone in the street knew what we were up to online so that they are aware that they can contribute.

Action: James@84 to find appropriate software and trial it to see if it generates the benefits he thinks we could achieve through it.

C. Finding the resources

James@44 described how a group of us had been meeting to discuss how we could establish an ongoing source of funds for the things we want to do - street party, pavements, trees, plants and whatever else. We had set an aim of generating £20k p.a. from three different sources:

1. Inviting everyone in the road to set up a standing order of between £1 & £5 per week so as to raise at least £5k a year.
2. Setting up a Trusted Trader scheme that would allow people validated by us to generate economies of scale through block bookings, leading to the possibility of discounts, in return for an annual contribution towards 'the street'.
3. Seeking sponsorship from estate agents and others.

James@84 asked how we would co-ordinate any additional fundraising we wanted to do alongside the standing orders. James@44 replied that it would be just like any charity that has separate fundraisers to supplement additional donations.

Actions:

- 1, Natasha & James to put in place a doorknocking campaign to invite people to make a standing order.
2. James@44 to recruit traders to the Trusted Trader Scheme.
3. Natasha & James to talk with Julian@75 about finding sponsors for the 2026 Street Party, and other things.

D. Other Topics

Marina said that, while she loved trees, she considered it more important that we address the condition of the pavements. They are hazardous to walk down. This is particularly an issue for older people.

Janet expressed concern that we are using our resources to find private solutions to problems that confront everyone, separating ourselves from others, and not paying enough attention to the common good.

Yehuda said that he thought safety should be our number 1 priority.

Laura reported on the theft the night before from no. 47. The house did not have a Ring alarm and the burglars were able to go through the side gate.

It was suggested that we ask the police or a security firm to do a review of security in the street, and propose a security checklist with key things that people can do to keep their house safe.

Jackie asked that we think about extending the tree planting into Henley Road so as to make the street look more attractive, and therefore less like a place to dump things and do other nefarious acts.

Some people suggested looking into re-establishing a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. The value of this was questioned by others.

Actions: James to talk with Councillor Ryan Hack; Natasha to take forward the idea of a security checklist.

E. Admin:

- The minutes of the last meeting were approved
- The accounts and annual report for 2025 were approved
- The following officers were re-elected:
 - Natasha Gale - Chair
 - James Davis - Treasurer
 - James Park - Secretary

F. Date of Next Meeting

We will consult with all residents on the best time and date for the 2027 Annual Village Meeting.