



Special
Issue
Newsletter
April 2020

Mapperley Park Residents' Association

Dear MPRA member,

Chairman's report

Firstly, I hope that you and your families and friends are managing to stay well in these difficult times.

As we cannot hold an Annual General Meeting this year the MPRA committee has decided to produce this newsletter which we will distribute to households where we have addresses and also post onto our website and Facebook page.



I want to thank our committee for their hard work during the year. Ed Davys and Ewan Lamont have stepped down as Treasurer and Social Media representative respectively and we are grateful for their volunteering over a number of years.

We are pleased to welcome Howard Davies (Treasurer) and Kerry Turner (Website and Social Media member) to the committee. They have both hit the ground running and are already making a big impact on our efforts to support the Mapperley Park community.

During the year we have produced two very successful editions of Mapperley Park News (thanks to Alisdair and Sally Butler) and hope to be in a position to produce one for Autumn 2020.

We have held two successful social events (thanks to Bee Sanghera) and have increased our membership.

Efforts continue with our council representatives in two main areas, tree replanting and brown bin collections. We have not made as much progress as we had hoped to and will now need to be patient until we return to a new normal. Please be assured that we will continue to lobby for improvements in both of these areas on behalf of us all.

Like it or not, we live in interesting times. They are times of danger and uncertainty; but they are also the most creative of any time in the history of mankind.

Robert F Kennedy, 1966



Photos reproduced with kind permission of Jo Welch, Kerry Turner and Cherry Burgess

We continue to monitor planning applications and activity and special thanks go to Mike Reade for his continued help and support to residents in this area.

We are really happy with progress on the roundabout (thanks to June Greenway) which is looking particularly splendid this Spring and benefitting from a fresh round of tulip planting last autumn.

As we are living through very challenging times, I am heartened by the amazing community effort that we're witnessing with the response to the Covid 19 appeal that is currently being organised by Howard Davies.

Thank you to everyone in Mapperley Park with all that we are doing to help each other get through this crisis.

Enjoy our wonderful surroundings over the coming weeks and months and stay safe...

Sue Clague, Chairman

Treasurer's report

The 2019 year was one of particular strength for the MPRA and this is reflected in the financial health of the association.

Income

The association has two primary sources of income:

- **Member subscriptions** make up c. 21% of our income, and for 2019 contributed £1,351, reflective of paid up memberships for 270 households, which equates to c. 11% of the households in Mapperley Park. This sum was down c. 10% from 2018, a matter the committee will be seeking to address through better member and subscription tracking in 2020.
- The **Mapperley Park News** publication is a significant and growing contributor of income, accounting for £4,799 in 2019, a 35% increase on 2018. This sum is net of costs associated with printing and distribution and its growing success is testament to the hard work of Alisdair and Sally Butler as well as the continued support and commitment from local advertisers. As the MPN is treated as a commercial endeavour, corporation tax of £1,125 will be due upon its 'profits.'

We also generated a small additional net income of £271 resulting from the sale of refreshments at the summer and winter social functions.

Expenditure

As in previous years, our expenditure is relatively modest and falls into three categories:

- **Administration expenses** – covering our statutory requirement to have in place insurance cover and expenses associated with the AGM, together amounting to £314.
- **Contributions towards the MP environment** – reflecting our commitment to support the wonderful planting and maintenance of the roundabout at the junction of Warwick Road, Mapperley Hall Drive and Lucknow Avenue, amounting to £563.



- **Social events** – covering the costs associated with the provision of Summer and Winter events for members, including hiring the Magdala Tennis Club, food and drink, and entertainment, amounting to £1,059.

Expenditure was broadly in line with 2018, albeit we held an additional general meeting in 2019 and the summer event in 2018 was a picnic in aid of the Nottinghamshire Hospice and incurred no additional costs for the association.

Balance Sheet

The result of the financial performance set out above is that the association remains in a very healthy financial position and in fact, added significantly to that over the year, with the surplus of £4,485 being added to reserves.

As at 31 December 2019, the association held £19,693 in the bank with a further £2,575 due from advertisers for the winter 2019 MPN publication. At the time of writing, all but £150 of this outstanding balance has been collected.

This leaves us in a strong position in 2020 to continue with our activities, notwithstanding that we will only publish one edition of the MPN this year, given the challenges getting one produced at the current time.

Howard Davies, Treasurer

More detailed accounts, which have been approved by the committee, are available on request from the Treasurer

Membership report

This year has been a little unusual for all of us, and the situation is reflected in changes in how the membership is looking.

The number of households on the database now stands at 520, and we have seen a surprising number of new applicants in recent weeks, most particularly to the Facebook group. Whether coronavirus has encouraged people to be more involved in the community, or whether the leaflet drop that we undertook a few weeks ago reminded people of MPRA's existence, we don't know, but we have seen the number of Facebook members rise to 407, including 17 in just the last couple of weeks. It is lovely to have such a high number of households wanting to be part of the Mapperley Park community.

We are now accepting applications to the Facebook page without having to pay the MPRA subscription fee; this move was taken so that the highest number of people would be able to access relevant information in these difficult times.

We really hope that the majority of people will still want to pay, as the subscription fee goes toward projects that are beneficial to the whole neighbourhood, a good example of this is being the recent COVID 19 leaflet drop.

New Privilege cards will be delivered to households as soon as it is possible; we know that you will be patient - thank you.

P.S. If your membership has lapsed, please do rejoin!

Cherry Burgess, Membership Secretary



COVID 19 response

We are a varied community with households of many different sizes, ages, nationalities and varying degrees of independence.

When it became apparent in mid-March that the country was going to be operating in very unusual and restricted ways, the committee agreed that this was a cause on which the MPRA should be taking a lead within the Mapperley Park area.

Of course, many streets already have their own strong neighbourhood support networks and equally some individuals are also demonstrating their creativity and innovativeness in responding to the situation. Two great examples are the community swap shop and notice board that has been erected on Tavistock Drive and the many tributes to the NHS and other key workers that have appeared around the streets.



Nonetheless, starting on 15 March we were able to quickly design and print a flyer, setting out the support that we could provide, and with the assistance of committee members and local volunteers, delivered them to over 2,000 households in Mapperley Park within 24 hours.

Since launching the initiative, we have had a fantastic response from across the community. We have had over 110 volunteers sign up to help – representing nearly every road within Mapperley Park – and from every background: working, retired, students etc. Where volunteers have themselves been restricted to home, they have helped nonetheless by manning the phone line one day a week. It really has been a wonderful example of community spirit, even attracting attention from Radio Nottingham.

As the period of social distancing goes on, we have a steady flow of requests for help and with the number of volunteers we are typically able to respond within the day, if not sometimes within the hour. We will continue to coordinate the response until the crisis abates.



Mapperley Park Residents' Association

Mapperley Park Residents Association exists to support our community. At this time of uncertainty, we want to do what we can to support residents of Mapperley Park who may have to self-isolate, to ensure that they are not cut-off from essential food and medical supplies.

If you, a loved one, or neighbour are in need of help, we will do our best to assist with:



Basic household shopping and delivery



Transport to urgent appointments



Collecting medical prescriptions



Posting mail

Equally, if you are able to support this effort by providing some of your free time, please also get in touch and we will coordinate requests and volunteers.

This situation will pass but it may not be for some weeks or months. But in the meantime, what better cause for our community to rally around.

Contact us on:



0115 8550959



help@supporteachother.co.uk

Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep.

However, it is also clear that there are many residents of Nottingham in a significantly worse position than many within our immediate Mapperley Park community. Therefore, and given the strong financial position of the association, the committee has decided to consider a donation to Hope Nottingham, to support the most affected households, for whom this uncertainty is causing significant financial hardship and making putting food on the table difficult. If you are able to help, there is a collection at Sherwood Methodist Church each Wednesday from 10am to 12 noon when they would be delighted to receive any donations of dried and canned goods, long-life milk and sanitary products.

Howard Davies, Coordinator

Social events

As is now becoming a tradition, we held two extremely successful social events for members during the year.

On June 9th we held our **summer social** at Magdala Tennis club, which was a great success; it was a beautiful hot sunny day. The BBQ was manned by Ed, who did a sterling job flipping burgers and sausages in that heat. Laura was welcoming guests at the door, Ewan behind the bar pulling pints of beer and serving Pimms, and Sheila Kaur face painting. Thank you to Howard for helping with decorating and dismantling.

Lots of new and old residents enjoyed the day, I know the children certainly did lots of games on the tennis court and an inflatable slide, which kept them all busy running around!



Thank you to the committee members for putting together a very successful social event.

At the end of the year we held our **Christmas Gathering** on December 5th. It was well represented by the Mapperley Park residents, and Rosemary Healy, Councillor and outgoing Mayor, came along to join in with festivities.

The Magdala Tennis club was decorated with the addition of a newly decorated Christmas 🎄 courtesy of MPRA and the bar was manned by our chair Sue Clague, who was kept busy with refilling glasses of red & white wine! The Christmas nibbles consisted of a very large cheese platter/ smoked salmon blinis/ homemade mince pies by Bee Sanghera. Delightful!

A lovely evening filled with laughter, good food and a few glasses of wine and cheer.



Bee Sanghera, Social Secretary



Planting and green spaces

Last Autumn we planted over 100 new tulips. Foxtail lilies were also added; look out for giant orange candlestick flowers this summer.

The team managed to do a good weed in March and will continue individually for now. We also mulched one of the beds with our first roundabout compost. It is marvellous!



The roundabout ladies are Francis from Carisbrooke, Lyn, Lin and me from Tavistock.

June Greenway

Private Road & Victoria Crescent Residents Association (PRMA)

Private Road, Victoria Crescent, Yew Close and Fairlawn Place are closely linked to MPRA with a permanent seat on the Committee. There are about 90 properties in our estate, many households are members of MPRA and join the social and other activities; sadly, these seem unlikely to take place for the foreseeable future. We encourage membership of MPRA and will advertise this at our AGM, now likely to be a virtual meeting in early June.

At about the same time as the support scheme was being introduced throughout Mapperley Park, we had set up our own system of central support through our existing data base of residents' details. Although yet to be called upon, this may be a mark of the cohesion and spirit of our friends and neighbours who are already helping each other.

We are excited to find that Openreach plan to install fibre-optic cable throughout our area as part of a city-wide initiative. Work seems to have paused, but this development will be most welcome, especially in the post-Corona era of increased reliance on electronic communication.



We hope, as the country returns to normality, perhaps sooner than later, that we will be able to build on and strengthen the links between PRMA and MPRA.

Laura Archer, PRMA

Reappointment of officers

One of the matters that would be on the agenda at the AGM is the appointment of officers. Each of the current post holders – as listed below – has indicated that they are willing to continue in the position for a further year.

Unless any member wishes to raise with the Chairman a query with regard to the re-appointments, these will take effect from 1 May 2020. Equally, if anyone would like to join the committee, please get in touch.

Chairman – *Sue Clague*

Treasurer – *Howard Davies*

Secretary – *Elizabeth Sanders*

Membership – *Cherry Burgess*

Social Events – *Bee Sanghera*

Web & Social Media – *Kerry Turner*

Private Road – *Laura Archer*

Planning – *Mike Reade*

Planting – *June Greenway*

Mapperley Park News - *Alisdair Butler*