Spring/Summer Newsletter **2026**

Mapperley Park
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

THANK YOU TO HAYLEY MCAFEE FOR HER PHOTO OF ST. ANDREW'S ROAD IN FULL SPRING GLORY.

What a perfect way of welcoming readers to the Spring/Summer issue of the MPRA Newsletter!

You may notice that this 2026 Spring/Summer MPRA Newsletter is coming out a little earlier than usual. This is in order to raise awareness of various upcoming 'Save the Dates'. In this issue you will find details of the AGM, the MPRA 50th Anniversary Party, and the annual Safari Sale. We hope to see as many of you as possible at all three events!

In our Golden Anniversary year, with new members joining and new volunteers on the Committee, we are busier than ever. If you haven't already, do sign up to the MPRA—see details inside.

Our delivery man tries hard to bring a Newsletter to every front door in Mapperley Park. It isn't always easy when houses are divided, gates are locked, or the location of the door isn't obvious. If you think you've been missed out, in the first months after publication there is always a stack of extra Newsletters in the open front porch at 2 Alverstone Road, near the gates to the cricket ground. Please feel free to come and collect copies for yourself, friends and neighbours.

Any correspondence, comments or questions can be emailed to **info@mapperleypark.org**, where they will be picked up by a member of the MPRA team.

With thanks to our sponsors

fhp·living
www.fhpliving.co.uk

From the chair and editor

I'm delighted to announce that the Mapperley Park Residents' Association is fifty years old in 2026, and look forward with great excitement to welcoming you to our golden anniversary celebration on Saturday 20th June - the King's Birthday and almost Midsummer Day, which are two more good reasons to have a party! All are welcome - families, friends, neighbours, young and old - and if you aren't yet a member, then come along anyway and join on the day. You'll find your invitation opposite.

Fifty years of the MPRA is a remarkable achievement. Although membership and participation wax and wane in cycles, the very fact that the Association and its Newsletter are still flourishing attests to generations of residents who have given their time and energy to do something positive for the Mapperley Park community. This is the moment to look back in thanks to the hard work of countless volunteers, without whose efforts neither the MPRA nor this Newsletter would exist today. When we celebrate this anniversary, we are actually celebrating the residents themselves (i.e. you, the people who make Mapperley Park their home), rather than some abstract notion of a club.

There are many residents who continue that work, and help make my twin jobs of Chair and Editor so much easier. From me, to the Team, thank you, and thank you again: Howard Davies (Treasurer), Ellen Turner (Secretary), Neil Marriott (Membership), Bee Sanghera (Social Events), Mike Reade (Building and Planning), Jen Guiver (Social Media), Barbara Cathcart (Trees), Emma Baker (Private Road), and Farnoosh Shahrokhshahi (Council Liaison). The position of Secretary will fall vacant when Ellen steps down in April, and in a year's time Howard is intending to give up being Treasurer. If you are interested in one of these two roles, please get in touch with me (Leena) at koreschroder@gmail.com.

Please also note that the MPRA Annual General Meeting takes place on Tuesday 28th April, 7pm at the Nottingham Bridge Club. More details and the Agenda can be found further in this issue. This is the annual opportunity for members to engage in discussion of specific local matters and challenges, with a view to identifying a positive way forward. Do come along to take part or just listen, and if you are not a member, you can join MPRA on the spot.

Enjoy the coming Summer months, and I hope to see you at both April and June events.

LEENA KORE SCHRÖDER

Fifty years of the MPRA Newsletter

Let's make the Fiftieth Anniversary issue of MPRA Newsletter a memorable one! Please help to mark the milestone by contributing photos or articles, particularly if they have some historical relevance. You might write about the history of your own house, for example, or more generally about the buildings, gardens or wildlife of Mapperley Park, perhaps from a historical perspective. You might have archival material, or how about an article on an architect associated with Mapperley Park? Another suggestion is to write about the 'identity' (for want of a better word) of Mapperley Park: does it carry a sufficiently unique presence in its surrounding area in the way that, for example, The Park or Lady Bay do with their gates and herons? How could Mapperley Park's urban image be improved? Your thoughts can be as ambitious and unfettered as you like. The Newsletter is just the place for blue-skies thinking, because you never know what good ideas might take hold and come to fruition in another 50 years' time! Send, or discuss your material with the Editor (Leena) at **koreschroder@gmail.com**. The copy deadline is Monday 2nd November 2026.

The annual Mapperley Park Safari Sale: SAVE THE DATE!

SUN 28TH JUN

The 2026 Safari Sale will be held on **Sunday 28TH June**, so start planning your stalls now! You can sell anything from home-made treats and crafts, to plants and groovy vintage gear - and so much more. Get in touch with **Zoey Sheffield** to reserve your space, by email to **catpatrolrescue@outlook.com**; or WhatsApp Zoey on **0785 5563 811**. Let's make this a Safari Sale to remember, and one which breaks the record in helping Cat Patrol with their vital rescue work and spiralling vets' bills.

2026 is the 50th Anniversary of the MPRA, and we are celebrating!

WHEN'S THE PARTY?

On Saturday, 20th June 2026, 4-9pm

WHERE WILL IT BE?

At Clawson Lodge (the amazing Watson Fothergill house), which the Ukrainian Cultural Centre hires out as a party venue. It's at 403 Mansfield Road, NG5 2DP, just opposite the foot of Mapperley Hall Drive.

We hope to be outside, where there is a deck and a young children's play area, with plenty of picnic tables and chairs - and umbrellas. Should it be really wet, there is still plenty of room for everyone inside.

IS THERE FOOD?

YES! There will be a BBQ and light buffet and nibbles. And, of course, cake! A full range of drinks can be bought from the bar at Clawson Lodge.

AND MUSIC?

We have music! What could be better than the Cave City Settlers, Mapperley Park's own home-grown band. You've got to come for this alone!

ANYTHING ELSE?

If anybody would like to volunteer some children's entertainment - face-painting comes to mind - please get in touch with **beesanghera@icloud.com**. Any other ideas or suggestions for party fun are welcome too.

DO I NEED TICKETS?

The party is free to all paid-up members of the MPRA, but outstanding subs can be settled on the day, and new members wishing to join can also do so at the party. We would only ask you to please register yourselves via the Eventbrite QR code below, so that we can cater for numbers. The code will also be posted on Mapperley Park Facebook. **SEE YOU THERE!**

MPRA Annual General Meeting

THE 2026 AGM WILL TAKE PLACE ON TUESDAY 28TH APRIL AT 7PM. The venue is the Nottingham Bridge Club at 401 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG5 2DP.

All paid-up members are invited, but those still owing can settle their annual subs of £10 at the meeting itself, and those wishing to become members will be able to join as well.

We look forward to welcoming you to this new venue. There is some free parking right beside the Club, and tea/coffee and biscuits will be provided.

AGENDA

1. Apologies, Minutes of last AGM and Matters Arising
2. Community Protection Update (PC Stuart Webb, tbc)
3. Update from Nottingham City Council (Kirsty Jones, Mapperley Ward Councillor)
4. Chair's Report (Leena Kore Schröder)
5. Treasurer's Report (Howard Davies)
6. Membership Report (Neil Marriott)
7. Planning Report (Mike Reade)
8. Social Media Report (Jen Guiver)
9. Election of Officers

Seeking re-election:

Chair: Leena Kore Schröder
Treasurer: Howard Davies
Membership: Neil Marriott
Planning: Mike Reade
Social: Bee Sanghera
Social Media: Jen Guiver
Private Road Rep: Emma Baker
Trees: Barbara Cathcart
Council Liaison: Farnoosh Shahrokhshahi

Not seeking re-election / vacant:

Secretary: Ellen Turner

10. Any Other Businesst

Litter picking matters: an interview with Kit

WHO ARE YOU AND WHY DO YOU ENJOY BEING A CLEAN CHAMPION?

Hello, my name is Kit and I am 7 years old. I love being a Nottingham City Clean Champion, and my favourite place to litter pick is near my home in Mapperley Park.

I enjoy being a Clean Champion because I want to help people understand why they shouldn't drop litter and to show everyone that litter picking can be fun. It helps our planet stay healthy and protects animals from getting hurt.

WHY IS LITTER PICKING IMPORTANT TO YOU?

Mapperley Park has lots of wildlife. I love animals, and it makes me sad to think they could be harmed by rubbish. I think it's important to make the place where you live as clean and enjoyable as possible. It makes our area feel welcoming, and somewhere everyone can enjoy, including dog walkers and people out for a run in the morning.

When I litter pick, it makes me feel like I've played a part in helping the environment. Litter picking is also really fun when I get to do it with my family.

HOW CAN PEOPLE GET INVOLVED?

You can get litter pickers (including smaller ones for children), purple bags and everything else you need from the council. Find all the information and sign up here: www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/cleanchampions

KIT (and thanks to Mum Sarah Langham)

Editor's Note: *Thank you Kit, for being a star litter picking champion! Your efforts are very much appreciated by the residents of Mapperley Park.*

There's also a small group of Clean Champion Litter Pickers run by the MPRA Chair, Leena Kore Schröder. If anyone wishes to join, and doesn't feel like tackling the Council website, email ***koreschroder@gmail.com.*** *There are supplies always available, although not hi-viz vests, which we think is not a good look! Here's Neil Boston, a stalwart member of the group, demonstrating that litter picking is an activity for all ages from 7 to 70!*

MPRA subs and membership

The MPRA was founded exactly 50 years ago by Mapperley Park residents who actively sought to nurture and promote a strong social community. Facebook did not exist then, but even if it had, social media alone does not a Residents' Association make. MPRA members:

- continue to uphold the MPRA's founding concern with the 'conservation, preservation and improvement of amenities' in Mapperley Park
- attend the AGM to stay informed, and discuss issues affecting the community
- are part of a supportive network of residents who are actively committed to help find solutions when problems arise
- meet at least twice a year at parties
- help to fund, through their subs, the production and delivery of the MPRA Newsletter
- If you wish to strengthen your ties to the area where you've made your home, do come on board and join the MPRA!

Membership is £10 per year per household, payable at the beginning of the year, or from the date on which you have joined.

Please remember to settle your 2025 sub, if you haven't already paid. It would be of great help if we didn't have to send out reminders, to which end Standing Orders are very convenient for all concerned. A very warm THANK YOU to everyone who is part of the MPRA!

HOW TO PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN MPRA

The annual fee is £10.

ONLINE BANKING
Sort Code **20-63-25**
Account Number **10609080**
Business name **'Mapperley Park Residents Association'**

Please quote you surname and postcode in the reference field. If you are a new member joining for the first time, please also drop an email to **info@mapperleypark.org** with your full name and address.

CASH OR CHEQUE is equally welcome, payable to 'MPRA'. Please post to: **Membership Secretary, 420 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG5 2EJ.** Including your name and address.

The NHS – Fit for the Future

Most of our experience with the NHS is when we need to go to the GP surgery and we want to know what's wrong with us. But while we appreciate the NHS and agree that it is necessary, all we hear about is the billions of pounds needed to run it and complaints about lack of appointments and the 8 a.m. scramble for same-day visits and delays in getting treatment. It is a bit of a mystery to many of us. We don't know how it works and perhaps more importantly, many of us are not quite sure of how GP surgeries work or how services are organised. One way of finding out is to join the Patient Participation Group in the surgery you attend.

Part of the government's 10-Year NHS Plan for England (called Fit for the Future) is about improving patients' access to health services and the efficiency in GP practices. The aim is to move from 'analogue to digital' and build more on-line services into the existing NHS App and to use Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) to assist in prescribing treatments. Over the next couple of years a more powerful NHS App will be rolled out, available to all patients on mobile phones and computers. This will enable patients to book appointments, communicate with medical professionals, receive advice, view their care plans, and self-refer to local tests and services.

Some of this is already happening in GP surgeries even though it may not be apparent to us. Already, groups of GP practices in geographical areas are working together to provide a wider range of services to patients. These are called Primary Care Networks (PCNs) and in the case of our local area, the Bestwood & Sherwood PCN is already in operation. It serves more than 60,000 patients registered with the following surgeries in the network:

The Alice Medical Centre
Hucknall Road Medical Centre
Elmswood Surgery
Sherrington Park Medical Practice
Sherwood Rise Medical Centre
Tudor House Medical Practice
Welbeck Surgery
Zulu Road Medical Centre

These surgeries are linked together and working to bring a wide range of care and treatment services into local communities. They will be accessible to patients through the NHS App which will work in a joined-up way so that, for example, appointments will be possible at times to suit patients at one of the other surgeries in the PCN or if a particular type of treatment is not available at one's own surgery. Throughout 2026 other components are being added including a Digital Triage system, which will use A.I. to guide patients in obtaining appointments, care services, and treatment.

Digital Triage is a screening system which will be available to patients on their mobile telephones and computers. Patients themselves will be able to input a lot of information about their symptoms and medical history. For those patients calling in via telephone or in-person at reception, their information will be collected and put into the on-line system. This screening system is aimed at reducing delays in obtaining appointments and treatment with the appropriate care services.

But some people will need help setting up and using the NHS App. Members of the Patient Participation Group may be able to volunteer to assist those who need such help. If you are interested, contact your GP surgery. They will be happy to talk with you and also, you may learn more about how our unique National Health Service can perform better for us in providing for our health needs.

DAVID LOOMES

MENINGITIS NOW Trek 2026: Walking for Zara

There were 30 of us on the Morocco Sahara Trek from the 5th to 10th March, including the Chief Executive, Tom Nutt and the President, Lisa Snowden. All the others were a mixture of survivors of meningitis and those who have lost friends, sons or daughters, as I have lost Zara. Some on the trip experienced their losses 25 and 30 years ago. Zara was the most recent loss of those on the trip.

I flew from Manchester with 14 others, while most flew from Gatwick. It seems I was the only person from the Midlands on the trip. We met at Marrakech airport, then drove for 5 hours through the Atlas Mountains to a hotel for the night. We needed to take a day bag (water, snacks, blister packs) and an overnight bag (sleeping bag, clothes) to be carried by camel from one camp to the next.

The first morning we drove through the mini-Atlas Mountains into the Sahara, to be dropped off for the day of the walk, which started after lunch. Each lunch was set up at mid-day, with food taken by camel. The first day was a short trip, about 7km. Hard work in the heat, for although sand dunes are beautiful, they are the sand equivalent of powdered snow. Poles came in handy. Day Two was about 17km; Day Three a similar distance; and Day Four was a sunrise walk of a couple of km.

The terrain for all three of the desert days was a mix of sand dunes, river crossings, and walking along riverbeds. There were a surprising number of trees. Taking place during Ramadan, nevertheless the first night in the desert was anything but peaceful, as it was interrupted by calls to prayer, snoring, fighting dogs and, apparently, a donkey that ran through the camp, which I completely missed. On Day Two we walked into a small town much further out in the desert. The stars were unbelievable, and several of us slept in the open that night: no call to prayer, no dogs and less snoring. Day Three took us further still, into similar terrain. In some places you could see that Morocco used to have much more water for crop irrigation. Another night under the stars (freezing) and a sunrise walk, followed by a nine-hour drive back to Marrakesh with stops for food. There was a night in a hotel, a restaurant meal, and a walk around the markets and bars of Marrakesh. The guides and staff supporting the trip were amazing, with incredible food, hospitality, a fire on the last night and camel rides.

What really made the trip, however, were the people, the stories. Whilst the walk was physically tiring - not helped by my late entry, the poor weather and the terrible timing of a bad cold - emotionally it was exhausting to listen to the accounts and reflections of my fellow travellers. The emotional challenge continued immediately upon our return, as we learned of the meningitis outbreak in Kent, which is ongoing as I write. This really highlights the risk of meningitis, the importance of awareness for everyone, and the lack of, and need for a vaccine. We did the trek in order to raise funds for Meningitis Now, to increase awareness and to support survivors and those who have lost family and friends to meningitis. So far, the 30 on the Trek have raised around £100,000 between us. More would, of course, be welcome to continue to support the vital work of Meningitis Now.

For us, the loss of Zara is personal. It was Zara on 23rd December 2024, but it could have been anyone. If you would like to donate to my Meningitis Now page, go to www.justgiving.com/page/mark-cheesman-1

With thanks, MARK CHEESMAN father of Zara

As we go to press the Roundabout is just about to burst into bloom with the first tulips of the season. Thank you, Gardeners! We look forward to seeing what follows over the coming spring and summer months.

A sport for life: why tennis could be the health boost you're looking for

Backed by landmark research, tennis is enjoyable, sociable and associated with a longer life than any other community sport studied.

As the days lengthen and more of us feel the pull to be outdoors, late spring is an excellent time to begin something new; something invigorating, sociable and remarkably good for long-term health: tennis. Tennis is often thought of as a summer sport for the young or the already fit, but that image sells it short. In reality, it's one of the most adaptable, year-round, all-age-friendly sports you can play and it's one of the few actually proven to contribute meaningfully not just to physical fitness, but to longevity itself.

One of the most striking pieces of research in this area is the Copenhagen City Heart Study, which tracked more than 8,500 adults for over two decades *(see Schnohr, P., O'Keefe, J.H., Holtermann, A. et al. "Various Leisure-Time Physical Activities Associated With Widely Divergent Life Expectancies: The Copenhagen City Heart Study." Mayo Clinic Proceedings 93(12), 2018).* Participants' leisure-time sporting habits were recorded, and the researchers then measured how these activities correlated with life expectancy. What they found was compelling: tennis players lived, on average, nearly ten years longer than those who led sedentary lives. To be exact, the data showed an average life expectancy gain of 9.7 years, which was considerably more than any other sport studied.

That figure was not a quirk of the data. Badminton came second, with 6.2 years added, and football third, with 4.7. Sports like cycling, swimming and jogging all had positive effects, too, but tennis really stood out. What's particularly interesting is that traditional gym-based exercise, such as using fitness machines or lifting weights, was associated with a much smaller gain of around 1.5 years.

The researchers offered a number of possible explanations. Tennis is physically demanding in just the right way: the constant bursts of movement, pauses, and changes of direction mimic interval training, which is known to be highly beneficial for cardiovascular health. But it's not just about fitness. One of the clearest patterns in the study was that sports involving other people, rather than solo pursuits, were the most strongly associated with longevity. The combination of physical activity and social connection appears to reinforce both physical and mental health. Tennis, it seems, offers that cocktail in full. And it is readily available in our own Mapperley Park community.

Unlike some sports that require youth or high levels of baseline fitness, tennis is a game you can take up at almost any age. At many clubs, including our own at Magdala, there are beginners' groups designed for adults learning from scratch, and "Rusty Racquets" sessions aimed at those who last played at school, or decades ago, and want to gently ease their way back into the game. There's no pressure, no judgment, and no assumption that you'll be match-ready from day one. The aim is simply to enjoy moving again, to build confidence with the racquet, and to start finding the rhythm and joy that comes from a good rally.

Tennis is also a sport that rewards regular play without demanding a gruelling schedule. A weekly social game can offer measurable benefits in balance, coordination, reaction speed,

mood and memory. And for many people, particularly in midlife or retirement, it becomes a cornerstone of their routine: moments in the week to move, laugh, and connect.

While the image of tennis is often tied to warm summer afternoons and strawberries, modern facilities now allow year-round play. Magdala's all-weather courts and floodlights mean that tennis can become part of your routine in every season, not just the height of summer.

For those who find tennis a bit daunting as a first step, a gentler route has become increasingly popular. Pickleball, a relatively new racquet sport with a slower ball, smaller court, and simpler scoring, offers many of the same health benefits in a more accessible format. It's easy on the joints, highly sociable, and ideal for beginners or those returning to physical activity after a break. For some, it becomes a lifelong game in its own right. For others, it's a stepping stone towards tennis. Either way, it gets people moving, and that's where the benefits begin.

If you've been thinking about being more active, meeting new people, or simply trying something a bit different, this might be the perfect moment to begin. The Copenhagen research suggests that tennis could add many years to your life; the real pleasure is that it adds life to your years as well. You do not need to be fit to begin; you begin to get fit. And you certainly don't need to be 25. At Magdala there are players in their 50s, 60s, 70s and, yes, a fair few in their 80s, all out on court, playing with purpose, laughing often, and proving every day that it's never too late to start.

Magdala offers a welcoming environment, structured beginners' groups, and a warm social scene on and off the court. Play continues all year, the coaching team is friendly and encouraging, and you're very welcome to come down, watch a session, or borrow a racquet and give it a try. Newcomers can also take advantage of one of our introductory membership offers; details are available via the club.

Taking up something new can feel like a big step, but it's often the first rally, not the hundredth, that makes the difference. And once you start, like me you may well find yourself wondering why you didn't pick up a racquet years ago, especially knowing it might just give you many more years to enjoy.

For membership enquiries: **membership@magdalatennis.org.uk**

PAUL SYRYSKO

Report from Kirsty Jones, Councillor for Mapperley Ward

The months since the last time I wrote for MPRA Newsletter have flown by and been very busy in my role as one of Mapperley's local councillors. November saw the first Council meeting since I became leader of the largest opposition group on Nottingham City Council. Because this was our first meeting there was not a lot that we were able to do, as Nottingham People's Alliance only became the official opposition once the report confirming the new balance of committees was passed during that same meeting. Nottingham People's Alliance became accepted on the Electoral Register on 3rd December. Work on developing the party takes up some time, and although this is separate from my role as a councillor, it is nevertheless linked. It is exciting to be part of building something new for Nottingham that can properly represent our views rather than those of party bureaucrats from London who don't know anything about us. On 4th December, our sister party, Broxtowe Alliance, won their first by-election. Given that they had not even existed a year, it showed that there is a desire in the public for our kind of local politics.

I have been continuing to attend regular Mapperley ward surgeries at the St. Ann's Valley Centre twice a month: please do come to see me if you have anything of concern. I've been on Tenancy Estate Management walks to look at the council housing in Mapperley ward, seeing issues at first hand in order to address them better. I have also been working to ensure that paths and gullies are clear from leaf litter. The cuts to Council services under austerity have put a lot of pressure on officers, making it difficult to maintain street safety. As well as raising issues I spot myself, it is very helpful when residents point out any hotspots so that I can direct the appropriate Council officers to them. I have seen good examples of work done by the officers to keep Mapperley's streets from becoming dangerous. I have also used these ward walks, accompanied by Council officers, to speak to residents in order to identify any issues that can be dealt with.

In less good news, it seems that the threat of having a different opposition has made the Council Leader change a practice that had been in place for decades: that of permitting the leaders of opposition groups to attend and speak at Executive Board, the main public decision-making body. The Leader has also changed the right of opposition leaders to see exempt papers. It begs the question, if you are confident in your decision making, why be worried about the public hearing different views? I spoke out about this change in local media and put forward a motion to the January Council meeting, supported by the Nottingham Independents and Independents group, who are also affected by this change.

In the January Council, Nottingham People's Alliance was able to make more of an impact. As well as presenting a petition from the residents of Ebers Grove about issues with household waste collection, we asked questions to hold the Leadership and Executive to account; proposed two motions (of which one – the City of Sanctuary – passed!); and proposed an amendment to another motion. It was a lot of work, considering how comparatively under resourced we are, but I feel we were able to represent our values and our residents' views. The Labour Leadership did not appear to see this as a good thing, and there were some retorts which veered into the personal rather than political, but we maintained our composure and said what needed to be said.

Nottingham People's Alliance has begun canvassing as a political party and I have done one session in Mapperley so far. It has been really good to hear your views, especially as they have been positive so far, given that we have not existed for that long! Some of the Nottingham People's Alliance councillors, including myself, went to Gorton and Denton to campaign for the Green Party candidate. We were pleased that this show of unity across all progressive parties and voters led to a victory against Reform. I do have optimism that there are more of us who genuinely want improvements and for things to become fairer, rather than blame others for the issues that we face. I think that by working together, even if we don't always agree on everything, we combat those who want to create division.

At the recent March Council, Nottingham People's Alliance proposed an alternative budget which would have stopped proposed cuts to adult social care and children's services, and reversed some of the most damaging and costly cuts of the past, whilst still increasing Council Tax at a lower rate than that proposed by Labour. We also presented different ideas, like stopping the Council's use of private bailiffs, in favour of an inhouse staff member dedicated to helping households that have difficulties paying Council Tax, and investing heavily in services that protect renters' rights. The alternative budget was lawful and balanced and would have saved the Council money in the long-term through investing in preventative services, whilst prioritising social good along with economic value. As expected, our amendment did not pass but we had a lot of support from community and union activists for our alternative vision for the city.

As we go into the Spring and Summer months it is particularly apposite that I have been considering improvements for Mapperley's parks with the Nottingham City Council Parks team (in the photo I'm testing out the equipment in Pearmain Park!). Although I have some ideas of my own, it would be really nice to hear from residents on what they want from their parks, so please let me know. As well as the aforementioned casework on leaf litter, I have logged casework from Mapperley residents in relation to care, trees, parking, traffic, planning, littering, bins and waste, road conditions, antisocial behaviour, blue badges, flooding, flytipping, housing and issues with direct payments. You can contact me through the details below, come to see me at my surgeries, and for regular updates, follow me on social media. I look forward to hearing from you!

KIRSTY JONES

Surgeries every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month,
St. Ann's Valley Centre

Email: **kirstyl.jones@nottinghamcity.gov.uk**
Message or voicemail: **07974 857 795**

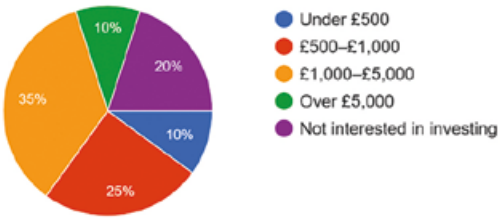
Mapperley Park Community Energy Survey: early signs of strong local interest in renewable energy

With oil prices rising sharply again as a result of the war in Iran, the drive towards greater energy self-sufficiency becomes an even greater imperative. Earlier this year the MPRA launched a short survey to understand how residents are thinking about renewable energy, energy efficiency, and community energy investment. Around 10% of UK homes now have some form of renewable energy, but council data suggests the figure in Nottingham is closer to 6%, and there is no clear picture of what is happening specifically in Mapperley Park.

The survey is still open, but the first responses already provide some useful insights. Whilst most homes still rely on gas central heating, many households have already taken steps to improve their energy efficiency. Measures such as loft insulation, wall insulation, smart meters and electric vehicle charging points are already common among respondents (70+% of respondents). A smaller number of households in Mapperley Park have gone further and installed solar panels or heat pumps, reflecting a growing trend for renewable energy adoption locally. Encouragingly, many residents (c.60% of respondents) are also considering further improvements in the next few years. Solar panels, battery storage, insulation upgrades and heat pumps were all mentioned as potential future investments.

However, the survey also highlights that uncertainty remains a major barrier. Survey respondents cited concerns about upfront costs, unclear financial returns, planning constraints, and trust in installers. Despite these concerns, there are promising signs of interest in community-led solutions. Four in 10 respondents said they would be very interested in participating in a community energy project, while many others (50%) said they would like to learn more, especially about how renewable technologies might affect property value and saleability in the future. Some residents also indicated they might consider investing £1,000 - £5,000 or more in a local renewable energy initiative if it offered both environmental benefits and a modest financial return.

Q7 – If a community project offered a modest financial return, how much might you consider investing?
20 responses



These early results suggest that Mapperley Park could have significant untapped potential for local renewable energy investment, provided residents have access to clear information and trusted guidance. The Nottingham Energy Partnership and other reputable supporting organisations are ready to step forward with face to face and online guidance about installation and funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy: **www.homeenergyadviceteamhub.uk**

We are now seeking help from suitable local organisations to provide venues for information sharing events for local residents. Keep an eye on the MPRA facebook page for future events. Please contact Dr. Fred Paterson if you can help: **www.linkedin.com/in/fredpaterson.** We have also set up a WhatsApp group for anyone interested in organising local events, sharing insight and asking questions about renewable energy. Once again, contact Fred if you would like to join that group.

We also need to gather lots more data. The survey remains open, and we want to encourage many more Mapperley Park households to take part. By building a clearer picture of local interest and activity, the community can explore how Mapperley Park might play its part in Nottingham's transition to cleaner, locally generated energy. Residents who have not yet completed the survey are encouraged to do so via the link https://forms.gle/dAAFpoqmh51VxtF59, or the QR code shared here.

FRED PATERSON

Editor's Note: Continue to follow Fred's plans for community energy as they develop and progress, here in the Newsletter and on Mapperley Park Facebook. Even if you are only interested at this early stage, do take part in the survey, and consider joining the WhatsApp group. Future events might include an Open Gardens-type day, when residents can visit homes which already have installed forms of renewable power, and ask questions of the owners. If you would like to be involved in such an event, get in touch with Fred at the details he gives above, and come to the MPRA AGM, where Fred will speak about the project.

This newsletter was designed by Ginette Guiver

Graphic design and illustration
Greetings cards and art prints available at www.ginetteguiver.com
@ginetteguiver

Children's Cricket at Cavaliers & Carrington Cricket Club

By popular demand the Allstars and Dynamos cricket sessions are back at the beautiful C&C cricket ground at the heart of Mapperley Park!

All Stars is for children 5-8 years old. Fridays, 6-7pm, from Fri 8 May to Fri 26 June. Price for all 8 sessions is £50 and includes a T-shirt, backpack bag, bat and ball. The programme is activity and game based, suitable for all skill levels. Children will be provided with the foundations for a lifelong love of physical activity and cricket, while making friends in a safe and enjoyable environment.

Dynamos is for older girls and boys 8-11 years old. Fridays, 6-7pm, from Fri 8 May to Fri 26 June. Price for all 8 sessions is £50 and includes a T-shirt and Dynamos Topps Wildcards. Each week there will be a focus on a different cricket skill to build confidence and ability, before taking part in a 60-ball countdown cricket match at the end.

You are strongly encouraged to register your children soon, as places are limited. Contact Coach Samiah Haleem for both programmes, by email at: **samiahhaleem@aol.com** or phone **0790 0994 321**.

Parents and carers are welcome to join in too! You can help the fully credited Lead Coach by supporting and encouraging the children as they learn new skills. It's completely optional and you do not need to be a cricket expert to be involved.

The January party

On a cold Friday evening in January friends and neighbours gathered at the Clawson Lodge Ukrainian Centre for the annual MPRA post-holidays social, and were delighted to welcome a few new members. The Association went all out with a fabulous buffet provided by Bee Sanghera, and all the hits sung by James Parkes. And yes, there was even dancing. A great time was enjoyed by all who came (and then watched the Traitors Final afterwards on their video recorders!). It was lovely to hear laughter echoing through the dark tree-lined streets as partygoers wended their ways home. Very special thanks go to Bee for organising the whole evening - it really was a great party to mark the beginning of MPRA's Golden Anniversary year!

Spring in Mapperley Park: trees, growth and responsibility

As spring arrives in Mapperley Park, the area's mature trees begin to show the first signs of the growing season, with fresh leaf growth, blossom, and increased wildlife activity. The tree-lined avenues and large, established gardens are a defining feature of the area, contributing significantly to its character and setting.

Many of the trees within Mapperley Park are well established and form part of a wider historic landscape. With this comes a level of responsibility, particularly as the area falls within a designated conservation area. As a result, trees are afforded a level of protection, and in many cases, works cannot be carried out without prior notification or consent from the local authority. Even routine pruning can require formal approval, depending on the size and status of the tree. It is worth noting that while trees are often protected, general maintenance of hedges and smaller shrubs is typically exempt from these planning controls. However, care should still be taken, particularly during the nesting bird season, to avoid disturbance.

Spring provides a useful opportunity to observe trees as they come back into leaf. The return of foliage can highlight structural issues such as deadwood, storm damage, or areas of decline that may not have been as visible during the winter months. Early signs of disease or stress can also become more apparent at this time of year. Ongoing monitoring and timely maintenance are important not only for the long-term health of trees, but also for safety - particularly where branches extend over roads, footpaths, or neighbouring properties.

It is also important to consider wildlife during this period. As nesting season begins, trees and hedgerows become increasingly active habitats for birds and other protected species. Any works should take this into account, ensuring that legal protections are observed and that unnecessary disturbance is avoided.

Mapperley Park's trees are a valuable and prominent part of the local environment. With appropriate care, consideration, and an understanding of the regulations in place, they can continue to thrive and contribute to the area for many years to come.

ALEX TURNBULL

fhp·living
fhpliving.co.uk

YOU FOCUS ON YOUR DAY

I'll focus on achieving the best price for your property.

My name is Jason Cook, I'm here to help.

In today's market you need to be sure you are making the right move. Let me and the FHP Living team market your property, help you find the home of your dreams and take you on a stress-free property journey.

FHP Living, have built a reputation for a friendly, honest and personal service, in The Mapperley Park area. We are your local, dedicated, personal property consultants, with an in-depth knowledge of your area.

Let me help you find the perfect match for your property.

Jason Cook - MNAEA.
Director

T: 07876 396 010
E: jason@fhpliving.co.uk

Contact us today! for your FREE valuation.

Scan for your FREE valuation.