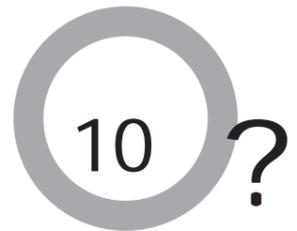


Core Group* meeting 29 April, 8.00 to 10.00 at 86a Potternewton Lane (next to B.Autos, bottom of Methley Place.) All Methleys residents welcome. We'll be

* See page 4 for more info about the Core Group

Home Zone: latest news

One of the main campaigns by MNA has been to establish a Home Zone in the Methleys. Here is an update on what is happening.



Opposition to Millennium Garden Threatens Funding

The proposed funding for the Millennium Garden at the top of Methley Terrace has been put into question following objections from Methleys residents living near the site.

The objectors sent a petition signed by 91 people, mainly living in Methley Grove, Methley Terrace, School Lane and Henconner Lane, to various official bodies and public representatives. (See page 3 for details of the petition, and a full description of the proposed garden, and the arguments for and against)

The Countryside Commission, who had previously agreed in principle to the funding, spoke to some of the objectors and then wrote to the pro-garden group saying that funding would be withdrawn unless some resolution could be found.

A pro-garden representative said "We would like to discuss the objections that people have. Nothing has been decided, and we want to have an open discussion about the garden."

The petition was sent after a public meeting held on January 16th. at the school.

Meeting disagreement

The meeting was held in Chapel Allerton Primary School to discuss the possible siting of the Garden at the top of Methley Terrace. The garden has been in the planning stage for some time now. The Countryside Commission, under their Millennium Greens Programme, were particularly interested in plans for a garden in such a densely populated urban area.

Up until a short time before the meeting on the 16th no detailed plans of the garden existed. The 'Garden Ideas' exercise at the Neighbourly Nosh in the summer was the start of the community deciding what form the garden could take. Over the past couple of months there had been a lot of informal discussion about the garden and its pros and cons. The idea of this meeting was to sit down and talk through all the different issues raised. (Cont.p4)

The meeting was run by a facilitator from outside the

MNA wins award

Methleys Neighbourhood Action has won the top £1,000 prize in a competition for community action groups in the Yorkshire and Humberside Region. The prize has been

Spring is sprung...



The garden created by Methleys Neighbourhood Action on Methley Drive at the top of Potternewton Gardens is waking up as spring comes. Irene David and Lisa Cooper (left) prune and weed the plants to create the best show for the summer. The garden was built by MNA volunteers with support from Leeds Leisure Services. A birch tree, bought with MNA funds, was also planted in Union Street

School Head's statement

Shirley Watson, the Head of Chapel Allerton Primary School gave us this message for the newsletter: "Chapel Allerton Primary School fully supports the development of a community garden. For us it would be a wonderful resource to allow small groups of supervised children to read, discuss ideas, listen to stories in a calm, relaxing environment. It would allow us to deliver elements of scientific and geographical study and allow a range of art studies - sketching, painting, making sculptures etc from the children's firsthand experience of nature. Pupils in our school desperately need a garden area and we don't have the space within our own grounds (we have to leave enough space for the children for outdoor play and activities). We expect to be fully involved in the maintenance of the garden in coming years."

awarded by The Times and National Westminster Bank.

Linda Strudwick, secretary of MNA, said "We are really pleased that the judges recognised the work that everyone has done in the Methleys. Things happen in the Methleys because people are willing to contribute

One of the questions asked at the Garden Meeting was "why not look at other sites in the Methleys?". Well one of the answers to that one is ... we are! - under the Home Zone plans.

A Home Zone is a neighbourhood with a very low speed limit and pedestrian priority (like making the whole neighbourhood into a giant zebra crossing - but without the black and white stripes).

The Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) define a Home Zone as residential streets in which road space is shared between motor vehicles and other road users, with the needs of pedestrians, including children and cyclists coming first".

Sounds too good to be true - but it has been working well all over the rest of Europe and it looks like it's



Garden meeting (cont.)

should be conducted: this included an agreed set of notes of what people said. The meeting started with presentations from the three architects who have been working closely on the project. In addition a model of a possible garden plan was on display which had incorporated changes in response to some concerns raised. The presentations gave everyone attending the meeting a chance to see and hear:

- i) how the idea of a garden had taken shape
- ii) how the wildlife/environment would be changed as a result of a garden
- iii) how the community would benefit from a garden
- iii) what a possible garden would look like and how it might allay some of the concerns expressed by residents.

After the presentations the meeting was open for discussion. There were strong objections to the garden from residents near the proposed garden site. We have set out the arguments that were written down for and against the garden, and the details of the initial proposed design in the centre pages of the

coming this way!

The DETR has asked local councils (including Leeds) to submit proposals to them to run pilot Home Zones. They want to evaluate the effectiveness of about six schemes nationally and there is no doubt that the Methleys could be one of them.

What might a Home Zone mean for the Methleys?

- Traffic in the Methleys will probably have to travel more slowly (possibly 10 mph), and give way to pedestrians in the street.
- The entrances into the Methleys will probably be marked in some way to show motorists that they are entering an area different from a normal road.
- There may be road markings, or different road surfaces, to show motorists that they must drive slowly. Some roads or entrances to roads may be narrowed to encourage traffic to slow down while in the Methleys.
- If you live in the Methleys and park your car in the street, that won't change.

There will be a consultation process so that people can have a chance to see what is being proposed for the neighbourhood and for individual streets, and to discuss ways that we can resolve major problems like the school

MNA Bits and Pieces

MNA coordinators

Thalia Savva	64 Methley Place
Paul Doney	16 Methley View
Adrian Sinclair	32 Methley Terrace
Dave Williams	84 Potternewton Lane

MNA Core Group

The MNA Core Group comprises people who are involved in some MNA campaign or activity, or who want to be involved in what's going on. Anyone can come to meetings to find out what's going on, and decide whether they would like to contribute. You can be involved as much or as little as you want.

em@il!

Are you on email? Do you want to get news about what's happening in the Methleys? Send an email to methleys@heads.demon.co.uk. We won't spam you!

Do you have WWW skills?

We are thinking about doing a Methleys website, because there is so much interest in what's going on here. If you have Web skills, such as HTML, graphics, or technical skills, and would like to be involved, send an email to dave_williams@compuserve.com

The Pro-Garden viewpoint

The pro-garden arguments raised at the public meeting on January 16 were recorded as follows

1. The garden will provide opportunities for the children of the community to learn about wildlife/environment.
2. Very useful facility for children at the school who would use the garden with adult supervision on a regular basis during term time
3. The current plan for the garden seems to have addressed a number of the concerns raised by the residents who don't want to see change
4. It may be possible to lock the garden at night.
5. A garden is an investment for the future when the A pro-garden representative gave us this statement:

We believe that the garden would be an excellent way of improving the physical environment and the bio-diversity in the area at the same time as creating an ideal learning tool for children in the school. The site for the garden includes some road space, car park and underused green space currently owned by the school and the Nursing Home. There are issues right now about litter in these areas. We believe that by creating a garden ourselves we are investing in the fabric of the neighbourhood and encouraging all residents, children and adults, to take responsibility; to maintain the garden and to keep it free of litter.

The area in front of the nursing home is planned as a quiet 'wildlife' area with limited gated access. The plan includes development of the natural variety of planting at ground level under the trees and to create a direct wheelchair-accessible route for residents of Harrogate Lodge. We are currently talking about detailed ideas with the Home Manager, staff and residents.

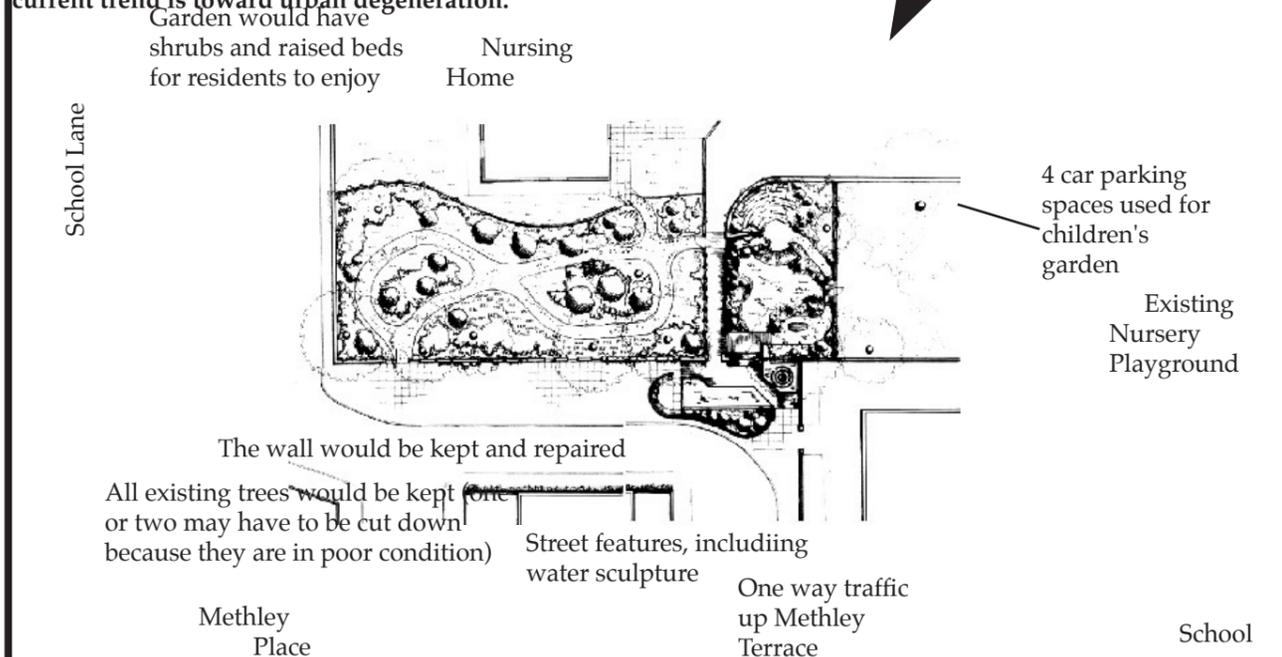
Inspector Kevin Spencer from Chapelton Police attended the meeting and was asked about the issue of vandalism and gangs. He felt that it was an issue that should be taken seriously but that it should not put us off from creating a garden because there are ways of dealing with the issues. He said he could point to lots of examples of successful gardens. MNA will be talking closely with Inspector Spencer as the designs for the garden are developed.

The Highways Department at the Council support the idea of making the top half of Methley Terrace one-way with a single line traffic on the corner of Methley Terrace and Zermatt Mount. Both the School and the Council are convinced that this will ease the chaos outside the school gates and ofcourse this will be legally enforceable (the current zigzag lines are only advisory).

With regard to the location of the garden, it should be pointed out that much of the garden is within the school grounds and that they are offering access to people in the community. The garden design should also be seen in the context of the Home Zone plans that MNA has been developing which also looks at the creation of Methley Square at the junction of Methley Terrace and Methley Drive. Residents are also currently discussing possible alternative uses for the land at the bottom of Methley Place and there are other small environmental improvements that have been suggested in other parts of the neighbourhood. The Government have just announced that they will be supporting pilot Home Zones and are asking local authorities to nominate schemes by April (see

The Millenium Garden: The Proposals and the Arguments

The plan shown below is the latest idea for how the garden could be. Nothing has been finalised
current trend is toward urban degeneration.



What the garden would be like

Architects Eddy Walker and Mike Middleton and Landscape Architect Chris Mckenzie Davey have been working on the Garden Designs. Here are their current ideas..

The garden would have our different areas:

1. **The Woodland Green** in the bottom of the current Nursing Home garden would become a more natural woodland (similar to a wild bluebell wood) with the existing trees maintained and enhanced by extra planting. The existing walls would be repaired.
2. **Zermatt Mount.** The road between the tops of Methley Place and Methley Terrace would be made one-way around from the Terrace and would be narrowed, with the pavement along the existing wall widened.
 - The gable end of Methley Terrace/Place would have artwork/sculpture by local people and climbing plants on trellis.
3. **The Top of Methley Terrace, by the School,** would have
 - A parents' and children's waiting area .
 - A curved wall/trellis to shield the garden from the road.
 - A pool crossed by a footbridge leading to the retained footpath to Harrogate Road, a canopy each side of the existing brick/stone wall, and a water sculpture

giving the sound of flowing/trickling water.

4. **The Water Garden** on part of the existing car park area (moving 4 spaces) and extending into the school's existing Nursery area, would feature :

- The existing large trees retained.
 - The existing footpath to Harrogate Road maintained but surrounded by scented flowering plants on a pergola, and better lit at night.
 - A pond full of wild plants and animals (typical pond life), with access deck and beach, for schoolchildren to study and maintain.
 - A stepped area where teachers can talk to small groups.
 - Various seating areas.
- Safety and Security
The various areas may be closed off at night by gates if this is necessary. The pond/pool would be surrounded by barriers to prevent easy access by toddlers on their own.
- The Green would :
- NOT be a dedicated children's playground although they would use it.
 - NOT involve demolishing the existing brick/stone wall at the bottom of the Nursing Home garden. But it would be repaired and only a short length, at the

The Objections

The objections raised at the public meeting on January 16 were recorded as follows

1. Nursing home residents enjoy quiet environment with wildlife at present
2. Worry of more litter etc. from passers-by.
3. Vandalism
4. Congregating of gangs
5. Increased publicity for the area has changed the 'outside view' of the neighbourhood bringing increased rents and a change in the type of people who can afford to rent
6. People in cars may ignore the traffic markings.
7. Concerns about children free to roam the streets using the garden without supervision.

Many people in the streets around the proposed garden site, and in Henconner Lane, already suffer badly from school traffic, and are concerned that the change to one-way traffic on Methley Terrace would make things worse.

Concern has also been expressed that wildlife in the proposed pond would be vulnerable to attack from vandals.

After the public meeting, a petition was sent to Fabian Hamilton MP, Cllr. Garth Frankland, The Countryside Commission, Leeds City Council, Harrogate Lodge Nursing Home, Sandown Group (owners of the nursing home), Chapel Allerton Primary School, and the Committee of Methleys Neighbourhood Action.

The cover of the petition said:

Please find enclosed a copy of a recent poll taken amongst the local community- from people who would be most at the receiving end of any consequences of a Millenium Garden on the current proposed site, and who have decided that they are not happy about endorsing such a project, whether it turned out to be a huge success or a gigantic failure. There are alternatives for the Pro-Gardeners. There would be none for those living close by if it went ahead- their choices would have disappeared by its very construction.

The petition itself was headed:

Re. A proposed Millenium Garden Funding Application put forward by the Methley Neighbourhood Action Group.

We, the undersigned, wish to make our position clear regarding the above application to yourselves. Whilst we are not against the idea of a Millenium Garden in our community, we do not support the current possible site under discussion. We have various reasons for this which have been articulated to the MNAG on more than one occasion. If there is any understanding on your part that this venture is fully supported by our community we wish to let you know that this is not so. We are absolutely against it, and will continue to voice this.

The petition was signed by 91 people, living in 18 households in Methley Grove, 11 in Methley Place, 9 in School Lane, 12 in Henconner Lane, 2 in Potternewton Gardens, 1 in North Grove flats, and 1 in Newton Villas.