

Action

Spring 1998

On The Streets 98 is coming!

What do you want to happen this summer? Old favourites like the Neighbourhood Nosh? More local talent in Stars in their Eyes? The Screen on the Wall movie is going to be 'The Full Monty'. There are plans for a Methleys Film Festival— YOU could make a movie which we'll show as part of On The Streets. Help make the annual Methleys Summer funfest a sizzling success!

Turn over for more!

First Home Zone in the country

Methleys to be a Home Zone

It won't happen tomorrow but quite possibly by the year 2000. The streets won't be paved with gold but we will have special entrance-ways on all the roads that lead into the neighbourhood that make it clear that this is a residential area with a 10mph speed limit and that priority on all the streets is for pedestrians. A central "Methley Square" will be created at the junction of Methley Terrace and Methley Drive. Blake Grove will have traffic calming features and the junction of Methley Drive and Harrogate Road will be changed to discourage rat-runners and make it easier for pedestrians. There will be a community garden created at the top of Methley Terrace and more trees and greenery planted throughout the neighbourhood. Many of the entrance-ways to roads will be narrowed to emphasise again that cars are welcome but people come first. What else will change - well that's up to you (our chance to help shape the Methleys future- see over)

But how can we be so sure that it is going to happen?

Nothing in life is certain but these are the facts:

That's what people in the Methleys want.

All the ideas outlined above have come directly from people who live in the neighbourhood. We've talked and talked and talked about it over the last four years and there is a remarkable amount of agreement over the main ideas. Of course when we get down to the detail there will be differences of opinion and we will work as hard as possible to make sure that everybody's views are heard.

That's what the Council wants. Strange but true! In March we had a meeting with, amongst others, the Chair and Assistant Director of the Council's Highways Department. They decided to back absolutely our proposals for a Home Zone. They will be putting a paper for approval to the Highways Committee at the end of May concerning the legal and technical details and funding proposals for the scheme. Once that is agreed (and it will be) they will seek approval from the Department of the

Environment, Transport and the Regions.

That's what the Government wants. In the last MNA newsletter we reported on how children from the Methleys went down to the House of Commons to launch the Home Zones campaign nationally. Since then the Methleys have been discussed in Parliament. Our MP, Fabian Hamilton, led a debate on the 11th February, "The Methleys and Home Zones", detailing all the work we have done over the last few years - the ideas, the turf, the movies everything. The Minister who replied in the debate was Glenda Jackson - you might have seen reports in the press of how she would have loved to have been sitting in the street watching one of our movies. What she also said was that the Government was very interested in the idea of Home Zones and "will be pleased to work with local authorities wishing to establish such low-speed zones on a trial basis".

Nothing is certain but some things are meant! There is an incredible amount of interest in Home Zones all round the country, reflected by an enormous number of enquiries from the media

(See Media on the Methleys story).over

Meeting about On The Streets 98 this Wednesday, Apr 15th., at 32, Methley Terrace, 8pm. Come along to listen, discuss and put forward your ideas!

Home Zone

Working to shape the Methleys future

What will the Methleys Home Zone be like? It looks like there is general agreement that the Methleys should be a safer more pleasant place for people, but the details of how this should be done are still undecided. Eddy Walker's report about the potential for the Methleys helped start the ball rolling. More recently, Leeds City Council planners produced a plan which included some of the ideas that Methleys people had put forward, and these were put on display during 'On The Streets' last summer.

Now we have to work on exactly what we as a neighbourhood want. About 600 people live in the Methleys, and the Home Zone is going to affect everyone. We are going to be living in this Home Zone, and we have one chance to get it right. It's VERY IMPORTANT that our voices are heard when the details are being worked out.

Ideas and concerns

There are bound to be lots of different ideas and concerns. "How will the Home Zone affect parking in my street?" "Will there be places for us kids to play?" "What about kids playing football all day?" "Why don't they put trees there, with a seat for people to rest on?"

There are also limits on what can be done. The Council doesn't have a bottomless pit of money. There are legal frameworks which affect what's possible. BUT... these limits don't stop us being creative. We can suggest things, and work with the Council planners and highway engineers to create the neighbourhood we want.

On The Streets 98

On The Streets is always fun. It depends on people having ideas and working to make things happen. It's hard work, but it's great. Last year, there were big crowds at all the events that happened, so we know that On The Streets events are popular!

We will be planning On The Streets over the next couple of months starting with ideas at the April 15th meeting. There are already plans for Methleys film talent to shine- if you would like to make a short video- a documentary, a thriller, or anything you want, we will provide a camera, assistance in planning your film, writing the script, shooting and editing. Then we'll show your video during 'On The Streets.'

What ideas have you got? Do you love the old favourites like Neighbourhood Nosh? What about sports events? More talent shows? How about another musical like Annie? Bring your ideas to the meeting on the 15th., or talk to one of the co-ordinators (see list on right)

Media on the Methleys

In January, Helen Brinton MP proposed a Home Zones Bill in Parliament. As an individual MP proposing new legislation, there is virtually no chance of the Bill becoming law at this point but it encourages debate both inside and outside Parliament. In The Times, Libby Purves wrote a feature article entitled "Move over, motorists". Here are a couple of quotes from the article:

"These zones go far beyond ordinary traffic calming. Beyond their clear, large signs would be a 10mph speed limit and features to remind motorists that they are no longer on drivers' territory, but in someone else's communal front yard. The law would state that in these zones drivers give way to pedestrians and cyclists, and are held wholly responsible for any injuries they cause. The whole area would effectively be one big zebra crossing"

"For motorists passing through, Home Zones would be pretty taxing. I tried driving down a local residential street at just under 10mph yesterday, and it is very, very slow. I then pretended the law was changed, and felt oddly disempowered. Even in my slow small car, the low speed and enforced humble attitude entirely altered the usual carefree comfort of a routine trip. I felt apologetic, even shift: I was going slow enough for pedestrians to catch my eye, and found myself embarrassed by the illogicality of one person rolling along in a smelly steel box, sitting on my backside while normal people walked. I stopped for a woman with a pram who was hesitating on the pavement, and while I waited a dog cocked its leg against my front tyre. I felt intrusive, and cumbersome, and silly. Worst of all, I recognised that all these feelings were long overdue, and that for years I had been zipping past people's homes and pavements and baby buggies at a permitted 30mph, arrogantly detached from their concerns, A balance of power had shifted. Try it yourself and see."

" even if it is all about street signs and ornamental parterres, underlying it there are some very big principles indeed: justice, humanity, chivalry, community, and the belief that mankind's upward progress has to be more than merely technical."

MNA is committed to working with the Council to make the Methleys even better. We will arrange meetings with Council officers in the summer as the Home Zone plans develop

Co-ordinators:

Adrian 262 9223

Thalia 225 3134

Tim 262

2008

Interested in getting involved in Methleys Neighbourhood Action? Talk to one of the main co-ordinators.

Core Group Meetings

Every three months there is a Core Group meeting, where co-ordinators and street representatives talk about the Methleys. If you are interested, you are very welcome to attend. Talk to one of the main co-ordinators to get the date of the next meeting.