

Community Fund 2017/18 Hampton Park & Ashgrove Road (HPAAR) Street Party 23rd Sept 2017



INTRODUCTION

Due to their convenient central location and proximity to many prominent local employers such as the BBC, the NHS and the University of Bristol, Hampton Park and Ashgrove Road have historically provided accommodation for a broad community of people comprising both of longer term owner occupiers and a more transient demographic of young professionals and postgraduate students. Indeed, certain premises have provided student accommodation for the past 6 years.

Residents (Upper Hampton Park and Ashgrove Road Residents' Association, UHPAARRA) have therefore recognised the value of organising an open community event at which the local residents, both new and old, can meet, strengthen existing friendships and to build new ones. To this end, the Hampton Park and Ashgrove Road Street Party has taken place, usually in September once the academic session has commenced, since 2013. We believe that it has contributed to greater social cohesion and harmony in this central region.

The event was organised by Upper Hampton Park and Ashgrove Road Residents' Association and other residents of Hampton Park, Ashgrove Road and the surrounding roads.

The aim was for residents to get to know each other. Of particular importance was for new residents (such as the students) to understand who their neighbours were and thus who to turn to if they needed help.

We received £250 from the Community Fund.

THE EVENT

A committee of volunteers, mainly long-term residents, was assembled to plan and organise the event. Since it was the fifth such event, a relevant programme of activities was already evident (tried and tested!), having evolved over the past 5 years.

The event was a great success. The weather was kind and we all enjoyed a lovely day of neighbourly fun and getting to know each other better. There were in the region of 70 people attending ranging from 6 months to 70+. People were very sociable and inclusive.

Around 15 students from UoB, residents of Hampton Park, Hampton Road and Ashgrove Road. We also met with many other students passing through on route to other places (our road is a busy pedestrian thoroughfare for the student community).

The event was organised and run by the local residents. Invitations were posted to all residents and there is a Facebook page where people were able to engage before and after the event.



OUTCOME

Understanding the very broad demographic of people who live on HPAAR - these include media and PR professionals, academics and university professionals, teachers, engineers, surgeons, dentists, lawyers, company directors and property developers, and span from young professionals to retired people, as well as the students. Also, knowledge of who the long-term residents are and hence who to turn to for local advice.

The only difficulty was the Ceilidh band not turning up. Which really didn't matter as the weather was so good people were happy to just mingle and eat and drink.

“What’s this all about? It’s brilliant. Does it happen every year?” Dan, 3rd Year UoB Student

“Isn’t it wonderful to get everyone out on the streets once a year like this!” Cristina, Resident.

“I’m delighted to be invited to judge the Bake Off again this year... so many delicious cakes” Xanthe Clay, Resident and local baking expert.

LOOKING FORWARD

What will be taken forward from this project to continue maintaining good community relations?

Knowing your neighbours and who to turn to for help.

To continue with the Playing Out days - Sundays in the summer.

To continue this event next year to integrate the new student intake.

THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to the volunteers on the HPAAR Street Party Committee (many of whom have young families) without whose efforts this event would not take place.