Community Fund 2016/17
Hampton Park & Ashgrove Road (HPAAR) Street Party
1st October 2016

Highlight of the day - Bake-off judging!

Xanthe Clay (judge for previous two years) was unable to attend so judging was done by a resident’s family members, Dr Jenny Jim-Condon and Mrs Wendy Jim-Foreman.
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 fourth such event, a relevant programme of activities was already evident (tried and tested!), having evolved over the past four years.

See the flyer for details:
HAMPTON PARK

STREET PARTY

12 til Midnight
SATURDAY 1st OCTOBER

STREET GAMES
12pm Bouncy Castle
2pm Tug Of War
4pm Bake Off Judging
6pm BBQ
8-10pm Music and disco

Find us on Facebook: Upper Hampton Park BS6

ALL DAY BAR
OUTCOME

The event went well, given the wet weather, which really affected the turnout when compared to previous years.

Around 40-45 local residents attended including 8-10 students from the University of Bristol who live on Hampton Park and Ashgrove Road.

One of the positive outcomes from the day was understanding the very broad demographic of people who live on Hampton Park and Ashgrove Road - 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 major difficulty was in fact the weather - it was very wet and predictably, it really affected attendance. To compare, there were around twice as many attendees last year. Also, planning for the party happened relatively late and the shorter lead in time would have adversely affected awareness of the event.

WHAT PEOPLE SAID ON THE DAY:

“Does this party happen every year? I’ll be sure to attend next year!”

3rd year UoB medicine student

“I love the Bake-off - the cakes are SO delicious.”

Alina (aged 9), resident

“Good turnout despite the weather! Nice to see everyone enjoying themselves nevertheless.’

John (aged 72), resident
LOOKING FORWARD

Learning from this experience will be taken forward to continue maintaining good community relations. For example:

Knowing your neighbours and who to turn to for help.

To apply to council for regular road closure days to further build sense of community in this area. (This has been successful and ‘play out days’ have been put in place for 2017)

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.

Thanks of course also to all of those who attended and made new connections despite the rain.