

ASH ROAD AREA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (A.R.A.R.A.)

In 1998 families in the Ash Road Area of Headingley threw a big party in the middle of a road - with a bouncy castle, street painting, music and food. The aim was to get Headingley Mount closed and thereby stop several local rat runs. With the support of a local councillor we came very close; had we won, many families would not have drifted away from this area. We didn't win then, but carried on campaigning.

Years later, in 2008, with the active encouragement of local councillors, we formed our residents' association. The Area comprises Ash Road itself, and all the streets leading off, between Kirkstall Lane to the south and St Anne's Road to the north.

With the help of a resident who was a professional traffic engineer, and encouragement again from councillors, and after innumerable meetings with Highways ... and after many families had moved out and landlords had moved in to divide up the homes to accommodate more and more students, we successfully closed three rat runs – although not Headingley Mount itself as we had hoped.



The effect was immediate. We suddenly lived in a quiet area. Birds returned and now finally families have begun to also return. More recently we applied for funding and were able to place street planters at all the road barriers on Headingley Mount.

ARARA's other major concern was, and still is, rubbish. Our 'rubbish sub-group' liaised directly with the council's Waste Management department and a pilot project was devised, which the council thought might provide a 'model' for areas similar to ours. We have had help from a retired waste management director and the support of local councillors. However although it was considered an environmental and financial success in its first year, and ARARA has leafleted the 800 houses each year about how residents can recycle, etc, the scheme has not been efficiently operated or promoted and remains to be fully implemented. Rubbish collection is still a concern.

Student parties have – dare we say it?! –reduced over the past few years and noise is [less](#) of a problem. At the moment ARARA is liaising with Leeds Beckett University, the University of Leeds student union executive and the police with the hope of ensuring student events at the Carnegie stadium do not result in on-street drinking and noisy parties.

We love art projects. With MICE funding and strong encouragement from our local councillors our art sub-group liaised with the University of Leeds and Leeds Beckett University art departments and with East Street Arts, so that





students and residents were able to paint the Virgin Communication boxes in our area with beautiful designs.

Most long-term residents enjoy sharing the area with students. We distribute a welcome flyer each year. One year we gave 100 households a pot of bulbs and this year on two afternoons we gave out free pakoras and onion bajhis. We have enjoyed two street 'big lunches'.

And then there is our wonderful local bluebell wood! For years we have been working with Leeds Beckett University student volunteers and Hollybush Conservation Centre on clearing and tidying Batcliffe Wood. Recently we have had further good luck in also working with the Friends of Beckett Park, Queenswood Drive residents, and Woodside and Queenswood in Bloom, in liaising with Parks to raise funding to restore the paths and further develop the wood.

Our meetings are well attended with plenty of new ideas and enthusiasm. If you live here, join us!

Chair: Helen Gee

Secretary: Jane Thompson

Treasurer: Paul Hudson



Facebook: [Ash Road Area Residents Association-Leeds LS6](https://www.facebook.com/Ash-Road-Area-Residents-Association-Leeds-LS6)