



**Case:**

**Methleys, Leeds**

## The Methleys -- Chapel Allerton, Leeds, 1996



+ 800 square metres of turf = £30m



● COMMUNITY PROJECT: Chapel Allerton residents watch *The Commitments* on their outdoor screen.

## Gable stars in road movie

STREET theatre took on a new meaning when dozens of residents set up a cinema — in the middle of the road. In a throwback to the community spirit of war-time Britain 50 years ago, teams of neighbours worked in shifts for six hours to paint the gable end of a terrace house white for the film screen. Others scrubbed the street clean before creating an amphitheatre with chairs, sofas and beds, while the film projection room was set up in a child's bedroom 30 metres away from the house side. And as darkness fell 300

residents settled down in their street seats for the free outdoor screening of the two-hour musical drama, *The Commitments*.

### Kinship

The residents, in an area of 100-year-old terraced and back-to-back houses in Chapel Allerton, Leeds, known as the Methleys, went into action after deciding it was time to bring the old community kinship back and try to improve life. The film show was one of many offbeat street events going over the weekend.





The Methleys -- Chapel Allerton, Leeds, 1996



## The Methleys -- Chapel Allerton, Leeds, 1996



£1500 cost turf

Leeds City Council's leisure department

Shell's Better Britain project

Transport 2000.





# Let the children play!

BY LINDSAY EASTWOOD

CHILDREN from a city suburb were today speaking out in front of 50 MPs in the House of Commons at the launch of a national campaign to make streets into play areas.

The 12 youngsters and four adults from Chapel Allerton, Leeds, were lobbying Parliament to change the law and allow local councils to create Home Zones.

People living in the Methley Terrace area of Chapel Allerton are trying to set up the UK's first Home Zone scheme in their community.

The project involves introducing a 10 mph speed limit, giving priority to pedestrians and placing obstacles in the road to slow cars down.

Leeds City Council has been supportive, but says the law on imposing

## Youngsters to lobby MPs for street 'zones'

such restrictions on motorists is unclear.

Siobhan Hodson, 13, of Methley Terrace, said she and the other children in the area were determined to persuade MPs to support the Home Zones initiative.

She said: "It is dangerous to play in the streets around here, some cars go really fast. Mums and dads are not sure about letting their children go out to

play.

"There should be more greenery and places for us to play where we will be safe."

And nine-year-old Harry Higgs, of Methley Place, agreed: "It's a nice place to live, but it could be much better.

"We want the streets to be narrower so we can have more space to play."

His sister Hesta, eight, said: "It makes us sad when we can't play out.



● **GREEN STREETS:** Flashback to when Methley Terrace was grassed over for children to play in

We want everyone to come outside and have fun. We want a playground in the street."

The Children's Play Council and Transport 2000 are launching the Home Zones campaign.

CPC acting director Tim Gill said: "By opening up the street as a public space, we can help to transform many of our urban areas and create safer communities, not only for children but

for all residents, including disabled people and the elderly."

Home Zones have already proved popular and effective in Austria, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands.

Residents of Methley Terrace hit the headlines in August last year when they turfed over their street and staged a mock village fete in protest against Britain's car culture.

Children in the area have employed a solicitor to press Leeds City Council to agree to the Home Zone scheme, and have threatened to take the authority to the High Court if it does not.

The Children's Play Council and Transport 2000 believe the Government should develop a framework of legislation to give highways authorities the powers they need to set up Home Zones.

Organisers want ministers to then fund pilot schemes in areas like the Methleys.





## Home Zone Scheme -- £30m



Figure 2.2 Location plan of The Methleys Home Zone







Figure 3.1 Home zone measures

### 3.1 Gateways and home zone signing

At the five gateways to the scheme, the roads were narrowed to between 5 and 6m, depending on the location, and patches of buff and imprinted red coloured overlay were applied. The gateway at the western end of Methley Drive also incorporated a ramp up to the raised shared surface (Figure 3.2).

A 20mph zone was established at the boundary of the home zone. At the time of the implementation of the pilot



Figure 3.2 Gateway at western end of Methley Drive

scheme, the final form of the 'standard' home zone sign to be used in the UK had not been determined and the boundary of the home zone was signed with local artwork positioned below the 20mph zone signs (Figure 3.3).



Figure 3.3 Home zone and 20mph zone signing







# Home Zone Scheme -- £30m









Figure 3.6 Bricks with imprinted artwork



Figure 3.7 Example of wall mounted artwork in The Methleys Home Zone





## Screen on the Wall 2003!

# welcome to the methleys neighbourhood website

**Friday August 29.** Bring your chairs, sofas or Laz-E-Boys on down to the top end of Zermatt Street. Sit back and enjoy **Bend It Like**



click images to enter site  
Thanks to **Reel DVD/Video Hire** of Chapel Allerton for their help in

The Methleys: a neighbourhood of 294 houses in Chapel Allerton, Leeds, England

The Methleys: built in 1902, terraced and back-to-back houses, all crammed together with tiny gardens. The only public places are the streets themselves.

**Take the NEW Home Zones Poll!**



ownership population stability

economic value

security

fun