

Potential space? Play, parents and streets

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Playing Out

Playing Out and Everyday Relationships

- What do parents hope for as they create playful spaces on their streets?
- What is important about play?
- Does play create a potential space, following Donald Winnicott, for the creation of transformed everyday relationships?
- A small-scale, qualitative, (auto)ethnographic and participatory project, developed with the existing North Tyneside street play organisers
 - Questionnaires (local and national), interviews with seven street activators in North Tyneside, participant observation, running my own street play sessions, and organising PlayMeetStreet North Tyneside

Winnicott and Potential Space



“an inviting and safe interpersonal field in which one can be spontaneously playful while at the same time connected to others”
(Casement, 1985, 162)

Hanging Out in Loose Spaces



“Oh, it feels lovely, it feels wide, I mean that’s the first thing we all noticed the first time we did it, was how wide the street was ... it’s quite a big space, normally it feels quite cramped and restrictive and dangerous. So, yeah, I think the feeling of space was the first thing” (Carol)

Knowing Your Neighbours

What sorts of changes have you seen in your street since street play started?

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People stop and **say hello to** each other.
The facebook group has been used to alert each other to issues outside of streetplay (security on the street)

More friendly, more community

More communication between adults and children
Knowing more people on our street

Neighbours **knowing** each other

Neighbours talk to each other more and help each other out
Children going to each other's houses to play
Children playing out on pavements and in each other's front gardens

I'm not sure I have seen any.

n/a

Better community, **people seem to know each other better** & help each other out

better relationships and communication

A greater sense of community. I now **know many** neighbours in the street, which is fantastic!

I know people by name that I might not have known before, which promotes a friendly atmosphere.

people talk to each other more in the street and **people know more of the people on** the street, not just their immediate neighbours.

We haven't done regular streetplay sessions- summer, Halloween, Christmas mainly-so it is hard to tell but it's definitely given the neighbours an opportunity to discuss plans for building work /extensions!

Knowing and chatting to more neighbours

More neighbour interactions, more social

Neighbors chat **more awareness** of the children's names who I live on the street

I wasn't here before it started. However I did used to live on a busy road where the neighbours did not speak to each other, I didn't know anyone more than two doors away. Here, **I know most** of the people in the cul de sac at least by sight and that happened quickly.

More community spirit

How have your relationships with your neighbours changed since street play started?

Showing all 20 responses [Show less](#)

Yes - as above **more familiarity** and ease with each other

More friendly

We know each other more , socialise more and communicate more

Improved

Much better

I know more of the neighbours and their children which is good.

It was a great way to meet people when we moved to the area

I've **gotten to know people** in Alma place better! Shame there wouldn't be the support on our street as not enough families

I need to be brave and come to more to meet more people.

The kids mix well. My little one has enjoyed it on each of the 3 occasions we've been

improved

Aside from **knowing more people** since street play commenced, Relationships with some neighbours have become strengthened and more meaningful.

I know many more people than I would.

we have become **more friendly**,

I have definitely **got to know** the neighbours more. It is a good opportunity to chat as usually everyone is dashing about to work /school.

Have made friends with other mums

Better mostly - **getting to know** them whilst out

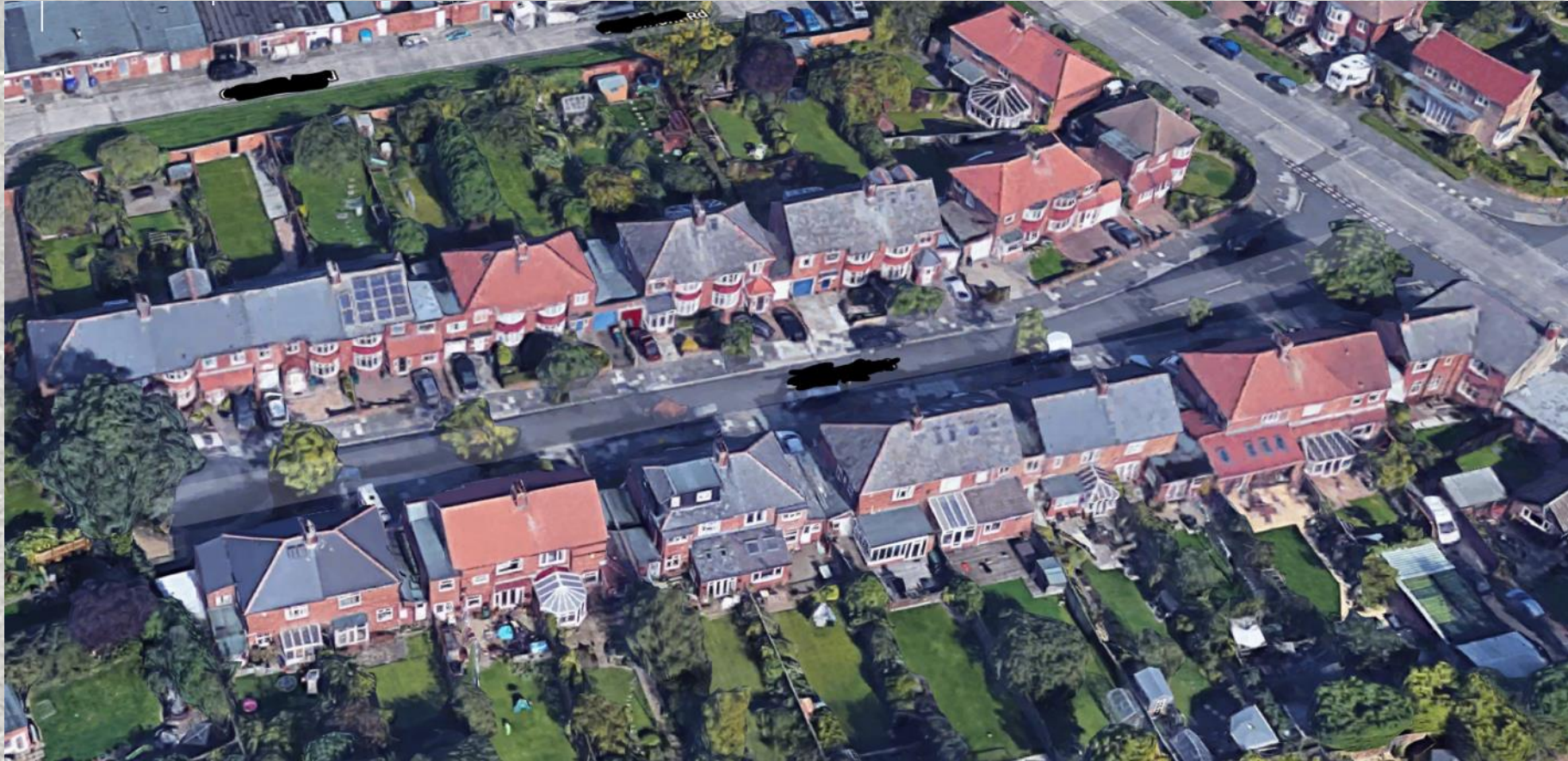
Yes improved although they were quite good anyway.

Improved

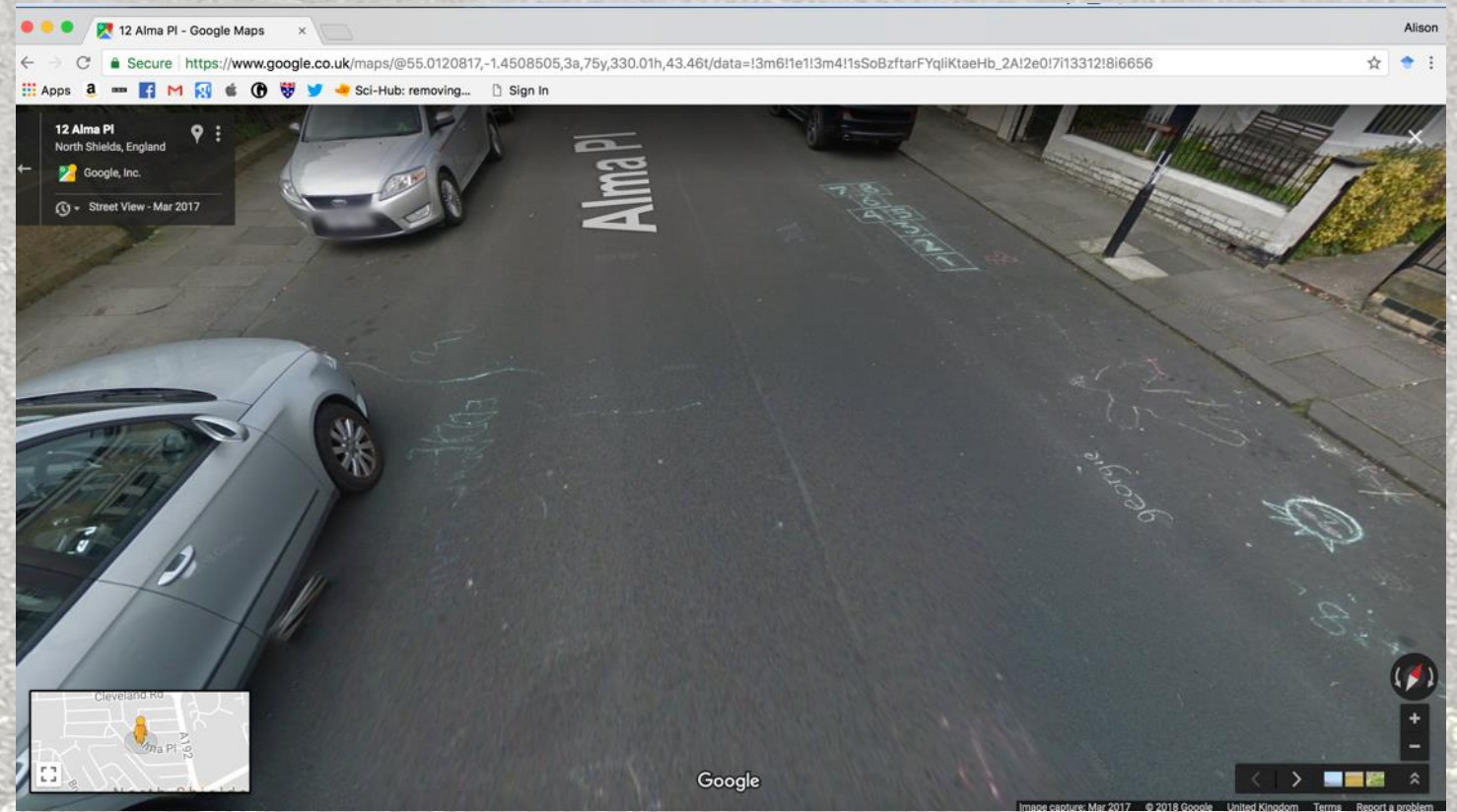
Yes. **I speak much more** with the parents of other kids and we're closer.

Improved. More social.

Crossing Boundaries



Imagined Futures



Imagined Futures

“So we’ve been in this huge dilemma of, do we stay or do we move, do we extend, do we just buy a house and get a bigger bedroom, err bigger, more bedrooms and things but, ermm, it’s the neighbours and it’s the area and you just think well actually it’s so important, erm, so we’ll look at some point we’ll probably end up doing an extension so we can stay and so we can be here...” (Amy)



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