

OLIVER'S BATTERY PLAN FOCUS GROUPS – OVERVIEW OF FINDINGS

The first stage of consultation involved **four 2 hour focus groups**, each comprising 6 – 10 participants, and structured by lifestage: Younger Family; Older Family; Older Residents & Seniors; Newer Residents.

Participants identified the main **Strengths** of life in Oliver's Battery as:

- The balance between city and countryside, including
 - countryside views and access to the countryside
 - access to city-based facilities and services
 - feeling of space, open-ness
 - quiet, peaceful environment
 - green spaces and footpaths within Oliver's Battery
- Good access to transport links
- Good community feeling, friendliness, community becoming more mixed incl. increase in young families
- Some good community facilities e.g. recreation ground, play area
- Feeling of a safe community, low crime
- Good variety of housing – and (relatively) affordable
- Easy parking – off-road, on-road
- Good local schools
- Availability of local shops, especially PO, butcher, coffee shop, secondhand shop
- Good access to health services e.g. GP, dentist

The main **Weaknesses** were identified as:

- The junction between Oliver's Battery Road South and Badger Farm Road – dangerous for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists
- Bus service – recent [?] deterioration in route, frequency, timing
- No central meeting place to provide community facilities and build on community feeling
- Shops – need for improved range and quality
- Parking issues – especially near shops, and school-related
- Excessive traffic speeds within Oliver's Battery
- Overhead cables
- Poor state / maintenance of pavements and of roads
- Image / stereotype of Oliver's Battery – 'elderly ghetto'

The main **Threats** were felt to be developments (housing, commercial) both around the boundary of Oliver's Battery and within Oliver's Battery.

Participants identified the main **Opportunities** /areas for improvement' as:

- Improve safety of Oliver's Battery Road South / Badger Farm Road junction
- Improve bus service
- Build / create a community centre
- Improve the shops and surrounding area