

OLIVER'S BATTERY PLAN

FOCUS GROUPS

FINAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2017

INTRODUCTION

- Oliver's Battery Parish Council has embarked on development of a Parish Plan, which will
 - ◆ consult community in thorough and systematic manner
 - ◆ provide detailed and unbiased information on issues of importance to local community
 - ◆ help individuals and organisations be prepared for issues, changes, threats
 - ◆ help people become more involved in development of a vision and defined plan of action

- First stage of consultation: **Focus Groups**
 - ◆ opportunity for residents to talk about their experiences of living in Oliver's Battery and to share and discuss their views with other residents
 - ◆ up to 2 hours duration
 - ◆ 6 – 10 respondents per group
 - ◆ mixed gender
 - ◆ independent facilitator
 - ◆ structured by 'lifestage'

- Four sectors of the Oliver's Battery population represented
 - ◆ Younger Family – at least one child aged 0 – 10
 - ◆ Older Family – at least one child aged 11 – 18
 - ◆ Older Residents with no dependent children & Seniors – age 50 - 75
 - ◆ Newer residents – moved into Oliver's Battery in past 3 years

- Groups took place on January 24th & 29th, February 7th & 10th 2015

- Overall structure of discussion
 - ◆ Strengths – likes
 - ◆ Weaknesses – dislikes
 - ◆ Threats
 - ◆ Opportunities – suggestions for improvement

OVERVIEW OF FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

WHAT DO PEOPLE LIKE ABOUT LIVING IN OLIVER'S BATTERY?

- Main 'strengths'
 - ◆ Balance between city and countryside
 - ◆ Countryside views and access to countryside
 - ◆ Access to city-based facilities and services
 - ◆ Access to transport links e.g. motorway, trains, buses, airport
 - ◆ Feeling of space, open-ness
 - ◆ Quiet, peaceful environment incl. low traffic levels, not too many noisy teenagers!
 - ◆ Good community feeling, friendliness – in all sections of the community
 - ◆ Mixed community incl. increase in young families
 - ◆ Community facilities e.g. recreation ground, play area
 - ◆ Green spaces and footpaths within Oliver's Battery
 - ◆ Feeling of safe community, low crime
 - ◆ Good variety of housing, character, good-sized plots, opportunities to do work / tailor / add value – and (relatively) affordable
 - ◆ Easy parking – off-road, on-road
 - ◆ Good schools with easy access
 - ◆ Availability of local shops, especially PO, butcher, coffee shop, secondhand shop
 - ◆ Access to health services e.g. GP, dentist

- Other positives
 - ◆ Settled population – indicates good place to live
 - ◆ Low light pollution
 - ◆ 'Green' aspects e.g. LED street lights, solar panels
 - ◆ Bus service
 - ◆ Good mobile / broadband
 - ◆ The Parish Council

- ◆ The church
- ◆ Mobile library
- ◆ Ollie Bees (Good Neighbours organisation)
- ◆ Good access to major employers
- ◆ Historical fame

SOME QUOTES FROM THE GROUPS

We liked Oliver's Battery because of the links to the city but also going the other way, you can go for bike rides, you can go for walks, you're in a city but you're on the edge of it, you can get out of it, go to the countryside.

The access to the countryside and the city and the lovely open feel to it ... A really good balance between country and city ... The best of both worlds

We see sunrise and sunset

We drove down the road and we saw the view and we thought 'Wow, that's lovely' ... I'm just taken with the views

It's two miles for my husband to get to the train station ... It worked for us location-wise with the trains, M3 etc.

We came here partly because of the good communications, you've got the airport, you've got the train station yet you're not in the city so you're not stuck getting out

We wanted space ... Your immediate environment is not too much bustle ... Good size of plots and the space between houses

I can hear the birds and not much else!

Tradesmen and people delivering, they say 'It's quiet here' ... Friends of mine who live in villages, they say 'It's quiet here'

It was just so quiet, it just had a really good feel about the place ... It's just a lovely place, very serene

There's a sense of community in Oliver's Battery ... The place kind of holds together ... I find it's quite a friendly place, people talk to each other – across the ages as well

I think people here are quite aware and considerate to their neighbours ... Very nice atmosphere ... A quiet friendliness ... Most people say 'good morning' to you even if you don't know them

When you have older children, they're living here alongside their friends, they can walk to school together ... There's a strong sense of community among the younger people which you don't find in many places ... They meet up at the bus stop and go in together

It used to be known as an 'elderly ghetto' years ago, people used to call it that but because of the large gardens and the space around the houses, people are moving in and extending and they are families, the profile is changing

The play area is absolutely wonderful

It's a safe place, you feel safe walking around at night

Where we came from, we were all on top of each other, looking into other people's gardens ... Where we lived before, all the houses were the same, here the houses are all different, and that's quite nice ...

[Previous owners] were 87, they hadn't touched the property for 40 years

More affordable than anything nice nearer to town ... You get more for your money

We wanted them [children] to be able to walk to school, which they can, so that's fantastic ... It's a quality of life thing, being able to get them up and walk them down the road [to school]

When we were looking around [to buy], you look at Littleton and you think 'There's no shops here, where can I get a pint of milk?' ... The [convenience] shop is great, it's always there, even on Christmas Day

We should put that as a positive, that we have got a Post Office

One thing I liked was how long people stay here, that was a sign for us that people like living here ... I like community and people feeling comfortable

It [community feeling] doesn't happen by accident, I think it's that people have been here a long time, they've felt part of the community, and they're sort of glad you've arrived

The bus stop is really helpful for teenagers because they can be independent and go to town and come back, it makes a difference as a parent

I think we're lucky to have a Parish council because there aren't many areas in Winchester that actually have one, they've been doing some good things for us

WHAT DO PEOPLE DISLIKE ABOUT LIVING IN OLIVER'S BATTERY?

- Main 'weaknesses'
 - ◆ Junction between Oliver's Battery Road South and Badger Farm Road – several issues
 - Difficult / dangerous for **drivers** – fast traffic on Badger Farm Rd, poor visibility, narrowing of exit road, traffic backs-up along Oliver's Battery Rd S
 - Difficult / dangerous for **pedestrians** – narrow pavements, overhanging bushes, uncleared leaf fall, unramped subway, vehicles mounting pavement
 - Difficult / dangerous for **cyclists** – especially turning right into Oliver's Battery
 - ◆ Links to issue that this is effectively the only way into / out of Oliver's Battery
 - Significant impact when problems on Badger Farm Rd e.g. recent accident – vehicles diverted along unsuitable routes
 - However, also some feeling that limited access cuts down on 'rat running'
 - ◆ Bus service – recent [?] deterioration in route, frequency, timing
 - Parts of Oliver's Battery feel 'abandoned'
 - Impacts especially on older residents, also school children, students, workers
 - Increases car use
 - ◆ No central meeting place to provide community facilities and build on community feeling
 - Church inadequate: poor condition, cold, limited parking
 - Absence of pub exacerbates lack of community meeting place
 - ◆ Shops – several issues
 - Overall condition and appearance unattractive, range and quality could be improved
 - Not fulfilling role of 'community hub'
 - ◆ Parking issues
 - Inadequate parking for shops

- All-day parking near shops by commuters and others catching bus, also contractors' vehicles
- Parking on grass verges
- School-related traffic and parking – volume, lack of consideration
- ◆ Excessive traffic speeds within Oliver's Battery
- ◆ Overhead cables – unsightly, can be safety risk
- ◆ Poor state / maintenance of pavements, impacts on users of prams, buggies, wheelchairs, mobility scooters, also people with mobility issues, joggers – and pedestrians in general
- ◆ Poor state / maintenance of roads - potholes
- ◆ Image / stereotype of Oliver's Battery – 'elderly ghetto'

□ Other negatives

- ◆ Vulnerability to outside agencies e.g. Planning Department
 - Lack of strategic thinking e.g. in relation to planning / development
- ◆ Some ugly housing e.g. 60s bungalows – sometimes exacerbated by poor maintenance
- ◆ Patchy lighting in some areas
- ◆ Oliver's Battery a 'poor relation' to Badger Farm in terms of community resources
- ◆ For newer residents – hard to find out what is available / going on in Oliver's Battery
- ◆ Broadband patchy in some areas / from some suppliers
- ◆ Limited sports / leisure facilities – incl. sloping football pitch
- ◆ Poor maintenance / litter clearance of green spaces, footpaths, pond
- ◆ Inadequate recycling e.g. of glass
- ◆ Noise from farm vehicles
- ◆ Minor vandalism / anti-social behaviour
- ◆ Pre-school group has inadequate accommodation
- ◆ Primary school requires improvement
- ◆ Parish Council slow to respond to complaint / enquiry

SOME QUOTES FROM THE GROUPS

That junction's awful, isn't it, it's a massive weakness ... Terrible ... Dangerous ... There was a bad crash ... You can't get across the junction. Even if it's free one way, you can't get out, people don't want to wait for you

When you came out of Oliver's Battery you used to have two lanes, you had a filter lane to the left and it worked perfectly ... They've taken that out ... Now the two cars block each other's view

Trying to get out of the top road! ... It's an awful place to get out if you're turning right ... I have had to go to the roundabout and come back

You can hardly get a double buggy along it [pavement at junction]... Mums with pushchairs and little kids ... Where are they supposed to go? And the cars come zooming round the corner

It's not safe for pedestrians, the pavement is very narrow and it's a very sharp turning ... I've seen a big lorry cut over the kerb

It's quite slippery ... One side [of subway] is ramped, the other one isn't

[On back roads after recent accidents], people were going up the side [of verges / banks], it was really dangerous ... But there was no alternative

When we first moved here, it was a reasonable [bus] service but it's dwindled away to almost nothing ... Three times a day but they come in pairs! ... The no2 comes at 10, 12 and 2.

Two or three years ago when they stopped the bus coming down S--- Rd, that's a killer, we do not feel part of the Battery any more ... They don't care

It's all right while you're fit and can walk up to the end of the road ... Lots of people moved there because it was on a bus route and now they're abandoned

The relative importance of public transport to older people doesn't seem to be taken into account, for someone my age it's a convenience, it's not a big issue, but for someone who's older living at the bottom of the Battery, if that's a reason for them to move [house], that's not good enough

We have students and if they've got to get into Winchester for 9 o'clock, it's no good

*In (some) villages you have a central place, an 'agora', a place where people can meet to discuss, to exchange opinions ... In Oliver's Battery there is not this convergence of people in a place ... The café doesn't really do it ... There's no pub ... There's no natural centre ... We need places to meet ... Like a sports and social club.**

For me it's the appearance of the shops ... It lets the whole area down, they're really dated and pretty run-down looking. If they had a facelift, maybe plant some trees at the kerbs, just smarten it up a bit. I don't think it would need to cost a lot

It would make it quite a hub for the community because most people will try and support their local shops ... If they were better, more and more people would come to them

What is happening is that people drive up to the shops and park to catch the no5, which is understandable actually, but it means there's less places to park outside the local shops ... Oliver's Battery Crescent is a stream of parked cars now

It [parking] destroys the verges – looks like the Battle of the Somme ... A mud bath

The school catchment area is huge so they have to drive – and now they park over here ... Traffic getting out of Oliver's Battery at school times has got even worse

The traffic backs up at half past three in the afternoon ... And people come out of Austen Avenue from the school and they don't stop, they just come straight out, they think it's their right

In this day and age, we've still got our electricity and other cables overhead ... Where there's a junction, they come from everywhere

The pavements ... are pretty bad in terms of buggies ... Especially (going) down to the recreation ground, there's trees coming up out of the pavement ... That is potentially a threat because you could injure yourself ... Hard for children to cycle on

My neighbour runs, and she has tumbled so many times ... All the senior citizens walk in the road!

Because people have been living here for so long, there is a measure of resistance to change ... and I think Oliver's Battery needs to be open to change

I would like to see what else Oliver's Battery has to offer, because I don't really know

[Play facilities] are tucked out of the way ... And there's no coffee shop attached to it!

I think it's the teenagers that keep stealing our number off our gate – it's not serious, but ... On a Saturday night ... Youths drinking on the green on a Saturday night

WHAT DO PEOPLE THINK ARE THE THREATS TO OLIVER'S BATTERY?

Main 'threats'

- ◆ Developments (housing, commercial) around the boundary of Oliver's Battery e.g. Linden Homes, golf club
 - Detract from 'green views'
 - Impact on traffic – even more difficult to exit onto Badger Farm Rd, slower journeys into town
 - Impact on infrastructure demands for e.g. schools, health services
- ◆ Developments (housing, commercial) within Oliver's Battery
 - Proposed / threatened / feared development behind shops, near recreation ground
 - Developments not meeting local needs e.g. affordable housing
 - Increase in housing density – 2 or more new houses where 1 previously stood
- ◆ Concern that Oliver's Battery community too small / under-resourced to achieve desired changes

Other 'threats'

- ◆ Deterioration in shops, increased competition from facilities at Badger Farm, Linden Homes development
- ◆ Further deterioration in bus service
- ◆ Declining support for local school(s) if standards not improved
- ◆ Public service spending cuts
- ◆ Increased plane / helicopter noise

SOME QUOTES FROM THE GROUPS

I think we're under threat all the way around from planning ... We're a little oasis surrounded by green but there will soon be houses here [Linden Homes]

The number of primary school children looking for a place at secondary school is going through the roof ... It's not the houses that are the problem, really, it's will the infrastructure be there? ... Schools ... Roads ... Doctors

Large-scale development – on the edge of Oliver's Battery, on the south edge towards the butterfly reserve, that land there ... It's all owned by an insurance company, and any day it could go [for development] ... A bit scary

There are concerns around when somebody passes away and their property is sold, there's concern that possibly not just one person will come in and improve it, but maybe a developer will snap it up ... Knock down what's there ... and jam a load of houses on one plot

We don't want to grow house-wise because of the problem of getting in and out but then you worry whether we're big enough to support [the things we want]

Twenty years ago the strength went out of Oliver's Battery and it all transferred to Badger Farm ... Coffee mornings, help with computers etc. ... Oliver's Battery doesn't have it and I can't see where this is going ... With Badger Farm well established and the new development and the [deterioration in] buses ... I don't like to be negative but I think Oliver's Battery is going backwards ... and they [Badger Farm] have a pub!

WHAT IMPROVEMENTS WOULD PEOPLE SUGGEST IN OLIVER'S BATTERY?

- ❑ Groups split into sub-groups of 2/3 people to discuss issues and generate ideas for improvement
- ❑ Top 4 areas for improvement / 'opportunities' – mentioned across all 4 groups and in majority of sub-groups
 - ◆ 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

- ❑ Road junction
 - ◆ Recognised as needing professional 'traffic engineering' input but with (better) user consultation
 - ◆ Improve for **drivers**
 - Remove 'cobblestones' to improve left-turns
 - Roundabout
 - Yellow box junction
 - Prohibited right turn
 - Traffic lights – possibly part-time
 - 30mph limit between Pitt roundabout and Sainsbury's roundabout
 - Possibly alternative way in / out e.g. via Parliament Place
 - ◆ Improve for **pedestrians**
 - Widen pavements
 - Cut back bushes, clear leaves
 - Improve subway
 - ◆ Improvement for **cyclists** implicit in above

We want a better junction so that it frees the tailback so then the chaos round the shops and Compton Way would reduce

With a son who's just passed his [driving] test, every time he goes out at 6 o'clock I'm thinking 'Is he turning right? Has he stalled?' It worries me

The bit between the Pitt roundabout and Sainsbury's should be 30 [mph] ... It's 40 and they do 50

The pavement's narrow, but the road's also narrow, as you're coming in up the road from Sainsbury's, turning left, if you've got anything other than a really small car [waiting to come out of Oliver's Battery] ... As you're turning in, the other car's got to be well over, otherwise there's not room for two cars, and I've seen some near misses there

Improving the access and removing the bottleneck at the junction by opening up Parliament Place or doing something with Millers Lane ... There needs to be another way in and out, and maybe make it one way in and one way out ... Longer term there's going to be even more pressure on that access so there really needs to be another way ...

The subway needs improvement for mobility scooters and prams ... There's no ramp, is there?

I had to help an old lady through the leaves the other day, because it was wet and they were like ice ... Even if you're hale and hearty, it's quite dangerous

- Bus service
 - ◆ Needs thorough review to bring service in line with (perceived) resident need, e.g.
 - Frequency and 'spread' through the day
 - Timing incl. mornings, late evenings, weekends
 - Routeing – restore service to 'bottom' of Oliver's Battery
 - Pricing and availability of return tickets
 - Size of buses – smaller but more frequent
 - ◆ Some requests for restoration of no5 route instead of improvement of no2 route, also possibly re-route of Park&Ride bus
 - ◆ Also suggestions for 'lateral thinking' solutions using other resources, new technology e.g.
 - 'On call' buses
 - Use of school minibuses

- Shuttle bus using volunteers
- Milton Keynes-style auto-drive cars
- Lift co-ordination via website

It needs to be geared to encourage people to use it ... Obviously there's got to be economics in that, but there's no incentive to use it, it's not regular enough ...

It needs to be around times like 9 o'clock in the morning, back at 5 – work hours

Later at night ... 9 o'clock – and later on a Friday and Saturday ... On a Sunday they finish at 5

People are cut off, especially down at the bottom – abandoned really ... If you can't walk up, you are abandoned ... It's quality of life for some people, just to be able to get out ... And it would reduce car use, which the Council are always saying they want

Better and much less expensive, because if you've got families here, you can't take the bus into town because you wouldn't be able to afford to do anything else! ... For local people, maybe a family ticket

And to be able to buy a return ticket

Smaller buses but a more frequent service ... Smaller mini-services that people can pick up

They made such a thing about keeping the No2 bus but as far as I'm concerned they could abolish the No2 bus and just give us one of the No5's an hour to take us into town ... It's a no-brainer

In other countries where they struggle with the bus service, they do that service which is called 'on-call' ... A bus which is continually travelling and with the technology available today [it should be feasible] ... And could be profitable

Maybe a Dial-A-Ride type thing – maybe using the school minibuses ... They're sitting there all day ... On a Tuesday morning, they'll drive to Sainsbury's, anyone who wants a lift ... For teenagers, on a Friday night, this minibus will be in town ... It needs some kind of lateral thinking ... 'I need to go here, is anyone going'? ... I would say [for older people] it's community, not being isolated ... A minibus to go round and pick people up so you can just not feel on your own

Some kind of local network? ... A list of people who are willing to give lifts?

- Community centre
 - ◆ Some awareness of proposal to incorporate community facilities into rebuilt church building
 - ◆ Not all supported this idea – concern re noise, traffic flow, parking, also minority concern re church connection
 - ◆ Alternative suggestions were for building a centre on the recreation ground and using surplus school premises / land – both received significant support
 - ◆ Wide range of suggestions for community centre ‘offer’ e.g.
 - Large and small rooms for meetings, classes, clubs, activities, private hire (parties)
 - Coffee shop – perhaps a bar
 - Sports facilities, a base for organising teams, leagues etc.
 - Facilities / activities for all ages i.e. young children, teens, adults, older people
 - Internet access, possibly ‘work hub’
 - Sufficient parking
 - ◆ Could incorporate community shop – or this could be included in current shops upgrade (see below)
 - ◆ Recognition that may need to be open to non-Oliver’s Battery residents to be viable, suggestion that Oliver’s Battery residents should have precedence / preferential rates for e.g. room bookings
 - ◆ Recognition that professional-standard management will be essential

I do think something’s got to be done about St Mark’s because other villages like Littleton, Itchen Abbas, they all seem to have come together, and there was all this business about ‘What are we going to do about St Mark’s?’ and it all seems to have gone quiet now ... At the fete they had a stand and they showed these plans for a community centre with room for the church and that was last year and nobody’s heard a word about it since ... I signed up for a newsletter and I’ve not heard a thing ... And it’s such a shame because we’ve got such a lovely community here, you could make so much revenue – I know it’s going to cost a lot to build – if you had proper catering facilities, people could have parties, you could have all these groups ... Everybody talks, but nothing happens, it’s a shame

That must not be associated only with the church because the church has a certain group of people but you will put off other parts of the population that is not interested in church activity ... As I understand it, the design so far is based around the church’s needs

It's not strictly a community centre either, it's a church hall and they allow other people to use it, it doesn't have a [community-based] committee

The idea of developing St Mark's into a community centre I don't think will work because of the parking ... They hope people are going to walk to the community centre but that's not going to happen ... and if you want people from outside to support it [parking essential]

A bit further away, not right in the centre [because of parking, noise issues] – somewhere like down at the park would be fantastic ... How about down the Rec? ... Or the school? Lots of people are in favour of having a community centre combined with the school ... Plenty of parking there ... Good land there

There's a lot of spare capacity at the school, the campus is good but it's under-used, it could be used in the evening ... Rather than focusing on the development of St Mark's which could be tricky ... And parking wouldn't be a problem there

If you create a community centre where people can regularly go and sit and meet and discuss their problems, these [problems] will be addressed more quickly ...

Generally we're of a culture now that we do like our tea and coffee and hot chocolate when we take our kids places

My step-mum's just moved house, she's in her 80s, and that was the first thing she did, was to find out where she could go for coffee and cake and meet people

A room that people can rent to organise classes

A community-run shop, selling nice produce, nice cakes, a community venture ... Run by volunteers, bringing your own produce in, and you can have a café there ... A nice place for people to meet



Shops

- ◆ Overall 'facelift' and improvements to existing shops
- ◆ Improvements to range of shops incl. delicatessen, greengrocer, baker – and all of high quality
- ◆ Possibly incorporate community-run shop
- ◆ Improve parking e.g. more designated parking, use land behind shops
- ◆ Should benefit from trend towards 'smaller, local' shopping
- ◆ Together with re-built church, could help towards creation of 'village hub' / 'village square' feel, create better 1st impression as enter Oliver's Battery

My priority is the whole shops / church area – to make us feel proud of the area

Don't you think, if there was a really nice coffee shop, deli, bakery etc. – not just for us, I think people would come from Badger Farm cos all you've got there is Starbucks ...

Those shops would be much better used if people thought they could park there, it would make that area more appealing if you had adequate parking ... It would be safer as well, because you wouldn't have cars reversing ... The more our shops are used, the better quality the shops ... We need people coming in from outside to support them, because we won't [be able to] support them [sufficiently] on our own

The old church site could become parking for the shops

People increasingly want to shop locally and support local shops

St Mark's needs to be re-built anyway, whatever the design

It's a missed opportunity to create more of a village community feel, the whole area could become more of a village hub, and linked with a community centre eventually ... Like a 'village square', we've got the green, we've got the church, we've got the shops ... With a bit of forward thinking, with a bit of strategic planning instead of piecemeal, that's what we'd like to do ... It could be really nice ... with a bit of vision

- Other suggestions
 - ◆ Individual or group with specific responsibility to generate / co-ordinate community / volunteer activity
 - To benefit whole community but particularly young people and older people
 - ◆ Better communications e.g. using community website, social media – for example, in relation to planning issues
 - Incl. 'Welcome Pack' for new residents
 - Possibly including promotion of Oliver's Battery to outside world
 - ◆ 20mph speed limit within Oliver's Battery, especially near the shops
 - ◆ Re-site cables underground
 - ◆ Glass re-cycling
 - ◆ Wind turbines / micro-generation
 - ◆ Network of cycle paths – within Oliver's Battery and also into city

- ◆ Exercise trails
- ◆ Nature walks
- ◆ School improvement
- ◆ Improved pavement maintenance
- ◆ Better maintenance of green spaces, paths, incl. bins for dog mess
- ◆ Improved signage to e.g. play area, footpaths
- ◆ Pub / wine bar
- ◆ More strategic approach to planning, incl. prevention of 'out-of-scale' developments
- ◆ Build sheltered housing / retirement flats for 'down-sizing' older residents
- ◆ Increase precept to support improvements

The value is to do with that community and that friendly atmosphere ... It's not just a dormitory, it feels like somewhere to live ... It's like community, caring, kindness, integrity – that sort of thing

There's nothing here for older children to do ... We take ours (outside Oliver's Battery) but if there was a local youth group ... That could be a volunteer thing ... If you have the premises ... It might prevent some of the teenagers drinking in the park!

Hursley have a really good website that's used quite a lot by people saying 'I need a babysitter' and things like that, that's quite a nice way to build a bit of community spirit, I don't know if there is one [in Oliver's Battery] or whether it's used ... But it's an easy thing to do

It [communications] seems pretty hit and miss ... Communications, publicity ... What you need to link in to the infrastructure is community engagement through communicating well, and bringing the volunteering in as well

I think it [reduction in speed limit] is necessary. The police did come up once with their van and they did do very well for the day they were here ... Sleeping policemen wouldn't cost that much but it would certainly stop them [speeding], they do belt along there by the shops, there's no doubt about it ... You've got people crossing with buggies, and there's cars parked there

[When 1st moved into house] I could reach up and hold that cable where it came into my house ... And the delivery trucks had a real problem with the cables. It's dangerous, you could take out all the electricity for the neighbourhood ... And it's wrong, in this day and age

When I first moved here, with one young child at the time, trying to find the playground ... It took me weeks, possibly months, to find out where it was ... And there are lots of little paths linking through which it is handy to know ... For small walks, the green route ...

There are a lot of people on the Battery who've lived here a long long time who might want to give up their large houses and still stay on the Battery because they've got friends up here ... But not like the ones in Chilbolton that start at £800k

Maybe we need to be prepared to pay more in our council tax to receive a better service

W P Hayward
September 2017