



(Article published in 'Community News' Autumn 2016)

As the Oliver's Battery Plan team conclude the analysis of the data they will start developing the first draft of the Action Plan. This will detail the proposals for how our community develops over the next ten years.

These proposals will come from residents' needs and opinions. We have gathered these from our consultations with people in Oliver's Battery, from both the early findings from our original Focus Groups, subsequent informal consultations and from the formal Questionnaire which gave us the stunning response rate of 73%. All this gives us a robust and up-to-date collection of data upon which to draw.

So what have all our consultations revealed so far about the people who live in Oliver's Battery and the kind of place they want it to be?

People like living here – they think it's a good place, safe and generally friendly. They love the access to the countryside, the views and the sense of peace and quiet. They appreciate the local shops and the Recreation Ground and they are pleased when they improve. Equally, they appreciate the access to Winchester, though the quality of the bus service through Oliver's Battery produced some strongly negative responses.

We discovered that the population of Oliver's Battery is changing – for example we now have as many people working as people who are retired, and there are more young children who go to a number of different primary schools, pre-schools and nurseries. In fact, around 25% of residents arrived within the past five years – that's quite a turnover! Engaging with young families will be high on our agenda, as well as doing more to welcome our new residents to Oliver's Battery.

And, relatively speaking, we still have a considerable number of elderly people, many of whom live alone. We need to develop ways of combatting potential loneliness and isolation, improving transport arrangements and other support.

There were two issues that provoked the most intense response – the threat of development on green field sites and the issues associated with the junction to Badger Farm Road. Whilst in our question on planning for future community facilities, the need for parking was ranked number 1 in the 'Very Important' category.

Lots of people liked the idea of more 'events', and indeed, the 60th Birthday Party on the Battery for St Mark's Church was very popular in July. These informal gatherings can make a positive contribution to developing our shared sense of community. So here's another date for your diary - on 8th October, we can celebrate the 60th Birthday of our civil parish – with a Birthday Barn Dance at Kings' School. Let's hope it is as well attended as the one that was held for our 50th Birthday celebration!



Our draft Action Plan will be sent out to all residents and we'll be looking for feedback from the community at another public meeting at the Primary School before Christmas. We'll be sending round more information before the Barn Dance in October.