

Oliver's Battery Parish Council

Community Initiative Update - September 2024

Context

The OB Community Plan was published in 2018. Since then, there has been significant shift in the OB demographic; fewer older people and many more families with younger children. However as we have no statistics on the change in population, our assumptions are anecdotal. During the pandemic more new residents came into OB, but the necessary shut down of many of our local activities has prevented assimilation of newer residents into our wider community.

As a consequence, the OBPC has highlighted this in its work and budget for the financial year 2024 - 25. The initiative to be led by Vice Chair - C M Leach

Aims

1. To monitor shift in demographic of OB from 2018;
2. To bring newer residents into the wider OB community, increasing their sense of belonging,
3. To work towards a closer, more cohesive, stronger community.

Preliminary Activities

May 2024 Annual Parish Meeting - Speaker Rev Marianne Foster, *Weaving Communities*. Group discussion and feedback.

July 2024 CML attends OB Primary School Fete. Meets new Headteacher, leader of PTA. Signs up a number of younger parents to PBPC Contacts Lists. Informal discussion with a number of younger parents (anecdotal evidence only)

There was a general feeling that school, school events, PTA is helping to embed family into school community. And a general feeling that newer residents rapidly got to know their immediate neighbours, forming positive social bonds, WhatsApp groups, etc.

High level of interest/attendance in big community events, e.g. Xmas Tree, Easter Egg Hunt. A looking forward to August Community Picnic.

Some feeling that if a family doesn't have primary school age children there is some sense of isolation. Not so easy to strike up acquaintances.

CML promoted joining in with Events Group, helping to put up tent, tree, etc. It is not a commitment of a great deal of time, but can be fun and a good icebreaker...

August 2024 CML attended Climate Fresque evening promoted by Sustainability Group. Useful evening, mixing people across OB, primary school, Parish Councillors, WI representatives, Sustainability Group members also. Making new connections. Excellent presentation. Thanks to Clare Shorter and Eve Almond for organising and hosting. Useful discussion about spreading info - CML suggesting making more of contacts on Sustainability Group Contacts List, Clare to think about family based activities.

August 2024 Community Picnic rained off, venue moved to St Mark's Hall. Thanks to Jane and Colin for organising this. Those who did attend enjoyed the music and conversation. A few new families were present, introduced to Colin and Chris, hopefully helping at Xmas Event.

Intentions for September

1. Meet new Headteacher at OBPS
2. Meet Head of PTA.
3. Meeting with Steph re Facebook, posts asking for survey expertise. Also Stats, re insertions, comments etc,

CML August 30 2024