

Culture & Community Activities Network Meeting



Thirteen organisations came together for the first Culture and Community Activities VSSP on Tuesday 15th March. The group discussed a range of subjects including:

How to restore confidence in people over 50 to go out:

It was felt that there was still a nervousness about coming outside of the front door and that better information around what activities there were around the borough may help encourage people to come out.

Knowing what is going on in and around the borough:

The group discussed how people could find out about community events happening around the borough, A number of suggestions were made:

- There were lots of individual community pages so the group discussed how these could be better utilised
- Connect to Support has a Community Directory that could be utilised
- Tagging posts with #LoveBasingstoke so that the Love Basingstoke Team at the Council could see the activities and promote them
- To identify which Facebook Groups are most used in the various areas so that they could be linked to

How to get more children involved with nature projects.:

A desire to see more children exposed to learning about nature was expressed but, it was acknowledged that there is so much competition with other activities for children plus people do not necessarily want to pay for events. It was suggested that there may be an opportunity to learn from successful projects from other parts of the country. A discussion was held regarding Saunders Field as a proposed nature reserve, which would be central to Basingstoke as good reserves are needed where children can learn, and restoring biodiversity by incentivising people/groups to grow wildflowers around the borough. It was suggested that getting involved with the BDBC Green Spaces Officer and with specific weeks may help e.g. Great Big Green Week <https://greatbiggreenweek.com/>

Partner Updates:

Basingstoke Neighbourcare advised that they had drivers available to take older people to activities and events however, it was difficult to know what activities were back open Rucstall Community Centre shared details of their coffee mornings which are open to all. The Wellbeing Centre is funning a full programme of activities
Oakley Stitchers have expanded beyond just Oakley and have a very busy group.

Actions Being Taken:

Hampshire Cultural Trust to have a conversation about Saunders Field with Hatch Warren Nature Group

Contact to be made with Community Associations to identify networks to share information on activities – BVA

Promote Basingstoke and District Disability Forum (BDDF) Disability Awareness Day is being held on 1st April

Contact [Connect to Support](#) if groups would like them to have a stand at any event they are having
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to research whether the [Love Basingstoke](#) website includes links to Community Centres