



Belgrave Unity Bulletin

April 2023

Notes from an exceptional day!



Saturday 18th March 2023 saw over 100 local Belgrave community members come together in a fantastically positive event hosted by BNCHA at the **Jalaram Sadavrat Centre** to discuss **Belgrave Unity**.

The event heard from some great speakers including:

- Jaimini Bharakhada (BNCHA Chair)
- Chief Constable Rob Nixon
- Rabiha Hanan (New Horizons)
- Bharti Acharya – Belgrave resident
- Ketu Mehta (BNCHA member) and her daughter -12-year-old Navya Mehta

But perhaps more importantly there were great discussion groups and

feedback from many Belgrave residents about what needs to be done to promote harmony, respect, and unity across our community.

What Belgrave Unity means to me

Participants were asked what Belgrave Unity means to them. Here's some of what was said:

- mutual respect for everyone's way of life, views, and aspirations
- people working together to achieve things - supporting & looking after everyone
- taking the time to talk, learn and walk-through local problems
- this Belgrave community is the best in the world. Jaimini is always working hard and doing her best – it's our turn to help.
- appreciation of other people
- compassion and understanding – connected – kindness
- new beginnings, learning from others, teaching from experience

Feelings

Participants were asked how they felt at the time of the unrest and how they feel now. These were some of the comments:

- not feeling safe – scared to go out but things slowly improving
- changed everyone's lifestyle and challenging for everyone
- you became more aware and wary of people around you
- it wasn't expected – people from outside participated – the unrest came out of the blue
- it shouldn't have happened, and it must NOT happen again
- the younger generation not listening to their elders
- worried about misinformation – people not aware of the truth – social media playing a part
- it felt like respect was gone – deities violated – it's never happened before
- I was shattered – bringing communities together is hard
- I was confused – are we using our energies in the right place at the right time?
- what impact have we actually made – but things can change
- we took our eye off the community cohesion ball



Solutions

The session heard about how BNCHA is preparing a funding application to promote Belgrave Unity. The projects listed below, which may form part of this funding proposal, all came from discussions in the working groups at the event:

- a **cultural exchange programme** – walks, talks and events from across the communities
- a **calendar of cultural community celebrations** open to all
- a **directory of Leicester community stories** – sharing information about diversity
- a **map of local resources** – buildings, people, communities
- a **capacity building programme** – aimed at enabling local people to have their say locally
- a **Belgrave Unity Communications Project** – social media, a community newspaper, building a Belgrave Unity brand
- **an intergenerational project** – conversations between schools, community groups, sheltered schemes and others
- a **future leaders project** – building up the voice of the young and creating role models for the future
- a **young persons activities programme** for school holidays
- a **drug/alcohol awareness project**

Are these the right projects? Would you like to get involved?

Get in touch with us on Shaan.

Admin@belgravecoop.org.uk to have your input!!!