

Celebrating Eid with the community at Shanklin Village Hall



On 11th May 2023, the Bangladeshi community from Shanklin Village came together to celebrate Eid in the community hall. Twenty-seven residents including children attended the celebrations, along with staff from the voluntary and community sector, the NHS and the leader of Sutton Council.

Community Action Sutton focused on developing the assets identified within Shanklin Village. Working with the Residents Association, the local GP Surgery, staff working in the local shops and ethnic minorities, we were able to develop a shared understanding of community development.

Having identified a Bangladeshi community within Shanklin Village, we engaged to build trust and understand the needs of the community. We were also working closely with the resident's association, who were keen to increase membership and to be representative of the diverse ethnicity at Shanklin Village. We brought together both the groups to understand how we can work together and establish shared aims. Through this the idea to host an Eid party by the Bangladeshi community in the Shanklin community hall for the first time took shape.

27 residents including children attended the Eid celebrations along with invited guest from the council, NHS, voluntary sector and local businesses. The residents were dressed in beautiful traditional outfits and enjoyed a wide variety of foods, danced along to traditional music, engaged with the local services and networked.

There was something for all ages including Henna and face painting. It was a pleasure to see the community coming together to celebrate Eid. The Bangladeshi community felt welcomed and empowered to have been able to use the community hall for the first time.

The integration of the B.A.M.E communities enjoying the celebrations was the greatest achievement, helping to break down barriers and ensure future community integration. Residents made new friends and said they felt confident that they are welcomed. There were a few 'firsts' too;

- First time in the history of Shanklin Village an Eid event is held.
- First time that the Bangladeshi community used the Shanklin Village Hall (two B.A.M.E residents have also become Residents Association members).
- First time the resident's association at Shanklin took part in an ethnic event with local B.A.M.E communities.
- The Bangladeshi community came together and created a WhatsApp group to engage with each other further.
- Identified local leaders and nurtured willingness to further motivate the community members and encourage wider interest in the development of their community.

The community Hall is now being booked for private events by the Bangladeshi community which was one of the primary developments the Residents Association was hoping to achieve. Community Action Sutton will continue to work in both areas.

We relocated 3 years back, I never we never knew so many people from the community lived here.

It felt like I was walking into my home, loved the effort taken to decorate

I have lived here 18 years, never had an event that I was part of and never thought I would see Eid celebrated at Shanklin village in my lifetime.

