

FROM THE Ground UP

THE LOVE OUR 'HOOD INITIATIVE ENCOURAGES RESIDENTS TO CONTRIBUTE IDEAS TOWARDS BUILDING A BETTER LIVING ENVIRONMENT.



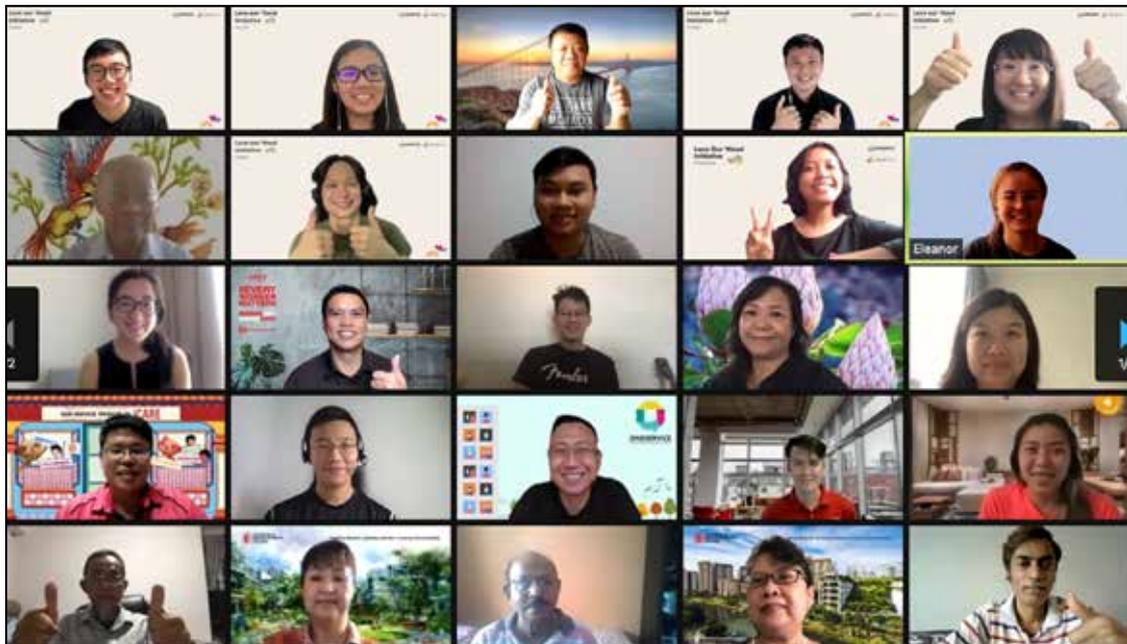
Ideation session at LOHI@Pioneer to develop potential solutions

Staying together in a high-density living environment has its fair share of challenges. In the spirit of SG Together, the Love Our 'Hood Initiative (LOHI), organised by the Municipal Services Office (MSO), aims to bring residents together to co-create solutions that address municipal issues on the ground.

The initiative was launched in January 2021 in Mountbatten, followed by Pioneer in August the same year. The next LOHI will take place in Bukit Gombak this year.

Gracious living in Pioneer

In LOHI@Pioneer, which wrapped up in October 2021, participants worked together to develop a



Pitching of ideas to Grassroots Adviser Patrick Tay on Zoom



Getting started on LOHI@Pioneer through our field guide

set of community norms on second-hand smoke from residential units and noise from neighbours. The norms serve to provide clarity on accepted behaviours and act as a point of reference to manage disputes, which would lead to greater tolerance and understanding among neighbours.

Part of the process involved seeking residents' opinions via surveys and interviews. Mr Gordon Rong, a participant of



Physical session to understand and discuss municipal issues in Pioneer

LOHI@Pioneer, said that the experience reminded him of the importance of adopting a collaborative approach between grassroots leaders and residents in establishing norms. This is particularly important, as these municipal issues directly involve people living in the community.

Mr Shamendra, Chairman of Pioneer Zone 9 Residents' Network Committee, shared that he was initially unaware of how different groups of residents thought about the

issue of second-hand smoke. “(Through the session) I gained a new understanding of how the environment was like for smokers and how they felt. This allowed us to craft norms that encourage residents to extend empathy to those who need to smoke at home,” he said.

Some suggestions mooted from these sessions included setting up community-designated smoking spots in selected public areas that would minimise the impact of second-hand smoke on non-smoking residents, and putting up physical calendars at lift lobbies where residents could indicate upcoming renovation dates on them. These ideas were presented to Mr Patrick Tay Teck Guan, BBM, Adviser to Pioneer Grassroots Organisations; the Chair of Pioneer Citizens’ Consultative Committee; the MSO; and other agencies at the final session of LOHI@Pioneer.

The MSO is working with interested participants and local grassroots organisations to communicate the norms and pilot the potential ideas in Pioneer.

For more information about LOHI, visit **www.go.gov.sg/loveourhood**. If you are keen to participate in the upcoming LOHI, keep an eye on our Facebook page (**www.facebook.com/OneServiceCommunity**).



LOVE OUR 'HOOD FUND

The Love Our 'Hood Fund supports ground-up initiatives or projects that address municipal issues and/or foster a sense of community within the neighbourhood to manage neighbourly issues amicably. It is a collaboration between the Municipal Services Office (MSO) and Our Singapore Fund.

Application is open to both individuals and organisations. Successful projects can receive up to 80% of the supported project expenditure, capped at \$20,000 per project.

More information can be found at www.go.gov.sg/loveourhoodfund.

