

Place workshop | Eildon Area Partnership

Issues

“is this a job for the Council or should the community be leading placemaking?”

We have different communities within us. And a sense that towns get resources, and the country gets less. We need to look at the community of people as well as the community of place. And we need to make sure the smaller places comes through as places in themselves.

Communities got stronger through Covid. In the early stages there was a disconnect. Groups were overlapping each other. Post the first lockdown, people met and tried to sort things. Now, we work like an umbrella, with groups and organisations coming together as a more focused unit. It has been very refreshing.

“There is fatigue”

We also need to do more ourselves to maintain, and harness collaboration established during covid between communities and the public sector. There is a sense that some connections aren't as strong as they were last March.

And there is lots of consultation. People can get over consulted. People need to see an end result on how we go forward, understand what's the product of the consultation. People need action. And space to maintain working relationships, not just a covid relationship.

“young people feel no one is interested”

And, the pandemic has had a big impact on young people, particularly on mental health and wellbeing. We need to think about what's needed within and beyond the school environment for young people, with more safe spaces.

Young people don't feel recognised. They are not always causing trouble. In lockdown, they have been helping lots of people. But, there is often no action on the things they are concerned about. Young people need transport. Services that are available now are not fit for purpose. There are no paths connecting towns and villages. People don't feel safe on the roads. And cycle routes on B roads can feel more dangerous than the main roads. With buses, sometimes there are none going where you need to go. Or are not frequent enough. Or people can't understand the timetable.

“People are generally unaware of what's going on”

There is always lots of stuff going on in places but most of it goes over people's heads. People are generally unaware of what's going on. And not everybody is digitally savvy.

We appear to have lost local newspapers showing what's going to happen locally. There is no medium to get information out to everyone. So, we can have events and people would have liked to attend, but they often don't know.

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Success

We want young people to be able to stay in the area they were born in, and less people leave. We want to see more equality, so people have the same chances and are not held back.

We want a place where people can get around and enjoy the area they live in and do the things they want to do without the inconvenience of living in a rural area.

“support people embracing new ways of doing things”

We have done great things in the last 18 months in zoom, created new conversations connecting people. So, lets build more connections, using technology to have conversations and generate ideas.

We want to support people embracing new ways of doing things, with more engagement with local community organisations. And a willingness to set up new organisations. Build more vehicles for more people to make a difference in the local community.

“The future needs to be greener, and more resilient”

During darkest times of pandemic, there was less traffic on the roads, and more time to go for a walk, more time to hear birdsong and see the landscape. People could spend less time driving and manically going to Edinburgh for work.

Now, we are all talking about building back better. We also need to build back greener, and reduce the carbon footprint. So, let’s build green mapping for the region. Identify more green activities, groups, and spaces.

“Support young people to be ambassadors of sustainability”

Success is about people who are not normally heard get a chance to hear a voice. So, ensure wide involvement with as many of the community as possible. The Area partnership is a good place to start the discussion. Things can be successful by engaging those we don’t normally engage with.

“Involve young people, and others”

Hone in an issue and fix it. Then do the next thing. If we try and fix everything all at once, we go nowhere. Bite off what we can chew.