

Place workshop | Tweeddale Area Partnership

Issues

“an ecological approach to places, and their differences”

Every area will be different. Drill down into these issues. And the connections between places.

Councillors traverse the area all the time. They could help strengthen connections, knitting communities, putting people in touch, letting people know about things happening in other areas.

But, huge chunks of our community are broke. There were over 65 weekly groups before Covid. Now, often, there are none. We are rediscovering groups and networks, helping to bring them back after being in storage. There is a huge need for a healing process to be undertaken.

“we need to the right forum to exchange ideas”

Communities have been telling of their needs for ages. From community perspective co-production and co-operation often seem to be Council driven. It's topsy turvey. And communities want to see an end point, with greater focus on the how, the mechanisms for action.

There are gaps in understanding in what we are trying to do and who is trying to do it. Recent work on older people and day centres aims get people out and about, but there has been no community input. No resource was supplied and no service level agreements. So, how can change be delivered locally?

Planning is wider than relationships with the planning departments and a focus on housing. We are interested in the planning of service delivery. That's the culture change. And, in that we need to ensure that people feel listened to, across all generations.

“It's about equity”

We recognise that there are different sorts of levels of engagement, and views from communities may not always be fully embraced by Councils. But, there needs to be a clear basis for action. We feel we have no overarching mechanism that shows how community input is actioned as part of the strategic thinking. It is hard to identify a continuous strand, an expression of what we see as important, considered across all stages of planning processes. We want to better understand how the effort going in will produce change. Effort seems to disappear, and this seems true at all levels.

“Perception of lot of effort and little impact”

Community Trusts and local people are already updating town masterplans and community plans, for their place and the surrounds. We are crowded with lots of plans. The legislation on Local Place Plans is cutting across this work. There is the opportunity for confusion in the planning processes. And opportunities for different plans to be at odds with 'what matters to you'.

“there needs to be more work at clarifying the landscape of plans”

Place workshop | Tweeddale Area Partnership

Success

“Cherish relationships”

We want to keep some of the good changes from the covid response, like improved relationships in communities. And sanitisation stations outside supermarkets.

Community meetings are part of the community recovery. Build on the work established for the Community Assistance hubs. It is about getting the key partners together and looking at what the key issues are. It works because the key parts are the trusted relationships already built up.

Let's build confidence and wellbeing in communities, with more opportunities for people before needing formal health and social care interventions.

“Somebody knows”

So, focus on cutting down barriers. And faster impact, immediate responses. If we identify someone in the community who needs help, we can find who is the best person to support them because we know the people who are there to help. This work comes from relationships. These mechanisms were there before the pandemic but now they are better, and stronger.

We want a future where communities no longer feel council are doing things to them. Everyone is doing things in a relationship. And all actions are embraced by all generations. So, facilitation is particularly important in a time of profound change, and climate emergency.

“Success is our young people able to live and work here because they can afford to.”

We need more affordable housing to be available within the scope of the people who live and work in the community. We need more jobs, and more jobs above the minimum wage. But sometimes, change feels like it is on small tippy toes. The community say we would like to see more.

We want fast and reliable broadband for home working across the Borders. And equal access regardless of where you live for transport, broadband, and local facilities. And buses that connect, a future where people are not beholden to the lack of a car on any day of the week.

We want to spend less time talking about the process and more time getting to the issues resolved. We want more knitting of communities, more sharing of knowledge and resources between groups. In the future, we would like to see communities make a presentation of what the community needs to see, and planners taking notes and make plans from the wishes of the community, operationalising community ambition.

“we know we are winning when we see evidence of the Council listening and more working with communities”