

Introduction to Workshop Sessions

Sustainability Wheel

'Working towards Sustainable Communities'.

The Sustainability Wheel featured below was developed by the Government to illustrate different elements that contribute to improving quality of life for everyone, both now and for generations to come. Developing and implementing our North Somerset Community Strategy is one of the ways that we can work towards sustainable communities.

The wheel shows how all the elements fit together. For a community to be truly sustainable all the elements must be considered equally. At the NSP stakeholder event each workshop considered two elements of the wheel as they relate to the themes of the Community Strategy. Workshop participants worked together to identify what working towards sustainable communities could mean when developing and implementing the Community Strategy for North Somerset.



Introduction to Workshop Sessions

Each participant selected two workshop sessions in the morning. Ten workshops were run reflecting the nine themes of the Community Strategy plus one workshop introducing the 'Compact' for North Somerset.

During session one each thematic workshop worked on a sustainability component to explore in relation to their theme, as follows:

- Communities and People – **'Well Run'**
- Community Safety – **'Active, Inclusive and Safe'**
- Culture, Leisure & Recreation – **'Active, Inclusive and Safe'**
- Economy and Employment – **'Thriving'**
- Environment – **'Environmentally Sensitive'**
- Health and Wellbeing – **'Well Served'**
- Housing – **'Well Designed and Built'**
- Learning and Skills – **'Well Served'**
- Transport – **'Well Connected'**

During session two all thematic workshops were asked to develop work undertaken in the first session by looking at how the 'Fair for Everyone' sustainability component could be applied to the work documented so far. Workshops also considered how local people and communities might be engaged in shaping these areas of work further.

A sustainable community that worked towards being **Fair for Everyone** would include the following aspects:

- a) recognise individuals' rights and responsibilities
- b) respect the rights and aspirations of others (both neighbouring communities, and across the wider world) also to be sustainable
- c) have due regard for the needs of future generations in current decisions and actions.

Workshop - Communities and People

Session 1

The Communities and People Workshop considered how the sustainability component 'Well Run' applied to this theme.

A **Well Run** Sustainable Community would include the following aspects:

- a) representative, accountable governance systems which both facilitate strategic, visionary leadership and enable inclusive, active and effective participation by individuals and organisations.
- b) effective engagement with the community at neighbourhood level, including capacity building to develop the community's skills, knowledge and confidence.
- c) strong, informed and effective partnerships that lead by example (e.g. government, business, community).
- d) a strong, inclusive, community and voluntary sector.
- e) a sense of civic values, responsibility and pride.

All aspects contribute to developing sustainable communities that have effective and inclusive participation, representation and leadership.

Communities and People workshop notes

Reflecting on achievements over the last 12 months.

- ✓ Bottom up views to be taken on board with the bigger issues, and additional resources now being made available to help this.
- ✓ Still issues over larger towns being able to do this and be taken into account.
- ✓ Consultation with young people – new café in Weston, also involved in surveys.
- ✓ Sharing information/network – Portishead network – group increased opportunities - replicate elsewhere.
- ✓ 4-Estates Forum – brings together agencies and residents.
- ✓ Pill Resource Centre – and Community Development Trust.
- ✓ Co-working between community and voluntary sector groups - huge amount of time and resources needed for partnership working, these difficulties are being overcome.
- ✓ Community and voluntary sector engagement higher level – sub regional – supports additional resources and raises voice for the area – still needs more work!

Identifying issues to address to ensure that we are all working towards a 'well run' community.

- Transport – no means of contact to access this information if no telephone.
- Community involvement.
- More families with problems/split community.
- Funding – too short term?
- Lack of visible community police.
- Leadership.
- Tried for Local Action Team - but people too busy!
- Community Development worker.
- Crime/vandalism.
- Start with youth – parents.
- Need to develop a sense of purpose.
- Compact as framework for engagement and role of NSP in this? – Information/support.

North Somerset Partnership Stakeholder Event 2005

- How people/communities engage (up/across structures), by interest group, by structure etc, by demographic/geographic
- Need to tap into people's passions (focus on outcomes) giving a voice to/including 'hard to hear' groups e.g. children & young people, disabled – how to ensure everyone is included.
- Method – how to gain the required skills? (to engage positively/successfully need agreement on 'how to do it'? Agreement needed between the Council, the Voluntary/Community Sector and other groups).

Identifying key issues to be addressed through a partnership approach

- How people/communities engage.
- Capacity building - how to get skills.
- Community Development.
- Process and structures to encourage effective engagement.
- Transport – accessibility.
- Funding.

Considering potential solutions to key issues identified

How people/communities engage

- passion.
- communication and marketing to raise knowledge.
- recognise that 'hard to reach' communities may have different needs/access.
- understanding aims of engagement.
- knowing the value of what you can offer.

Capacity building – how to get skills

- two way process.
- skills for people initiating consultation.
- skills of consultation participants, tapping into and recognising their skills and knowledge.
- make it 2-way – those initiating consultation and those taking part.

Processes and structures to encourage active engagement

- clear communications.
- common understanding.
- encouraging engagement.
- tangible outcomes/results may develop over time.

Community Development

- needs a voice.
- community needs a forum – a vehicle to take forward their concerns/needs.
- commitment of Local Authority required.
- surgeries – Police, Councillor.
- imposed?
- bottom up?

Needs process to ensure engagement is effective

- the Compact consultation code of practice as 'hook'.

Transport – accessibility

- services working closer together and bridging gaps in provision - across districts and authority areas.
- don't presume that everyone has access to a telephone.

Funding

- when attracting funding need to consider term, how used, capacity, migration.
- exit strategy (effective) for when funding stops.
- more funding!! (not necessarily)

Workshop Outcomes

The Communities and People workshop suggested issues and potential solutions to help develop 'well run communities' in North Somerset. This work was presented as part of the sustainability wheel built by all participants at the Stakeholders event.



COMMUNITIES AND PEOPLE	
<p>Key Issues</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community Development. 2. How people & communities engage. 3. Transport – accessibility. 4. Need processes to ensure engagement is effective. 5. Funding. 6. Capacity building – how to get engagement skills. 	<p>Key Solutions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The community 'needs a voice' eg a forum – to act as a vehicle to take forward their concerns. 2. Understanding the aims of engagement on both sides and recognising the needs of the 'hard to reach'. 3. Service providers need to work closer together – bridging gaps in provision – across districts and authority areas. 4. Consultation code of practice as 'hook'. 5. An effective funding exit strategy for when the funding stops. 6. Make it two-way – those initiating consultation and those taking part.

Communities and People Session 2 – Considering the Sustainability Component: Fair for Everyone.

Views on what applying the sustainability principle of 'Fair for Everyone' means in relation to the key issues and solutions identified in session 1.

- Community Development - needs to be a way of networking/links with/between support officers.
- Community Leaders – need to have more ownership and encourage others to take ownership.
- Role of Parish Councils – opportunities through parish plans to give a key role locally.
- Exclusion of elderly people particularly re: transport/isolation/exclusion – times of services.
- Shouldn't just focus on '4-estates' – problems exist elsewhere.
- Parking for disabled is 'shame faced' – Weston Dial has been ignored on this issue.

Who else should be involved and how?

- Voluntary groups }
- Local people }
- Community development workers }
- Local businesses }
- Parish councillors }
- Community elders } **LOCAL**
- Youth groups }
- Local action team }
- Local charity }
- Police }
- Neighbourhood watch }
- Council }

Issues and solutions identified by the group when applying the sustainability principle of 'Fair for Everyone' to the Communities and People theme resulted in the list below. The work below was included in the sustainability wheel produced at the event.

FAIR FOR EVERYONE

1. Support needed for local community group/forum (facilitator and generic funding).
2. Empower people to take a lead. Capacity building officer – link big and small groups.
3. Integrated transport plans and linking relevant groups.
4. Get out into the community, to the pub (not just village halls). Be proactive.
5. More from private sector. More links between local business & community.
6. What support do people actually need to achieve 1 & 2 above?