

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 2 - Community Safety

Session 1

The Community Safety workshop considered how the sustainability component 'Active, Inclusive and Safe' applied to this theme.

An **Active, Inclusive and Safe** sustainable community would include the following aspects:

- a) a sense of community identity and belonging.
- b) tolerance, respect and engagement with people from different cultures, background and beliefs.
- c) friendly, co-operative and helpful behaviour in neighbourhoods.
- d) opportunities for cultural, leisure, community, sport and other activities, including for children and young people.
- e) low levels of crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour with visible, effective and community-friendly policing.
- f) social inclusion and good life chances for all.

All aspects would contribute to developing sustainable communities that are fair, tolerant and cohesive with a strong local culture and other shared community activities

Community Safety workshop notes

Reflecting on achievements over the last 12 months

- ✓ High profile policing (skips).
- ✓ Arson Task Force.
- ✓ Yatton Parish Council redeveloped area to improve community safety. Lighting, maintenance etc. Partnership with police. Inclusive of young people.
- ✓ Crime & Drugs Partnership 3 year strategy and Action Plans to tackle priority areas need to be included in the Community Strategy refresh.
- ✓ 8% reduction in crime in North Somerset.
- ✓ Victim support. Burglaries, victims say detection much better.
- ✓ Weston Neighbourhood Watch (NHS) Assoc, re-launch.
- ✓ 1200 Neighbourhood Watch & Local Action (LAT) teams. Good community engagement.

Identifying issues to address to ensure that we are all working towards an active, inclusive and safe community

- Need sustainable funding.
- Capacity building for bidding.
- Area wide neighbourhood mediation service.
- Maximise resources.
- Ensure synergy between various plans and strategies and that they respond to local needs. Communication between different groups.
- Ensuring agreed actions are completed before moving on to new activities (this can be difficult when working to government priorities).
- Having confidence locally to apply government priorities locally.
- Performance against targets (especially as funding is dependant).
- Targets need to reflect performance, not just 'tick boxing'.
- Not enough money in groups/organisations to achieve everything.
- Need to engage community to help – enable community to participate fully/ownership.
- Need to think about how people are engaged – not meetings, less formal.

Identify key issues to be addressed through a partnership approach:

- Maximise resources.
- Ensure synergy between various plans and strategies and that they respond to local needs. Communication between different groups.
- Need to engage community to help.

Considering potential solutions to key issues identified:

Resources

- better information on where problems are (engage community).
- merging commission of resources.

Synergy

- between partners, groups/organisations etc.
- engage communities
- good work happening.
- mapping and cascading/sharing info.

Communities

- not 'meetings', communities to help organise or control.
- real partnerships – what does partnership mean to Communities.
- equality.
- more/better community facilitators
- whose role it is to 'join up' work at local level.

Workshop Outcomes

The Community Safety 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.



| COMMUNITY SAFETY | |
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| <p>Key Issues</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensuring synergy between different groups/organisations that meets local need 2. Maximising resources 3. Better engagement with local communities | <p>Key Solutions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Synergy between various plans and strategies; Targets need to reflect performance not just tick boxing; Better communication between different sectors 2. Better sharing of information – merge commissioning of resources; better engagement of communities 3. Enable community participation and ownership; Create EQUAL partnerships; Empower communities to take more control; don't hold meetings |

Community Safety Session 2 – Considering the Sustainability Component: Fair for Everyone

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

- Better sharing of info
 - accessibility of information – suitability of language (plain English). Different formats – consideration of literacy standards. Patience/taking time to deliver information.
- Engagement of communities
 - accessibility for different communities. Engaging with diversity.
 - funding particularly in rural areas or in areas where there is a lack of community engagement.
- Participation & Ownership
 - enthuse. Leadership. Feedback. What format should be used?
- Equal Partnerships
 - has improved through better communication between Partners. Be more open - shared vision.
- Better Communication
 - education.
 - two way communication.
 - feedback – positive & negative.
- Sharing Information
 - open surgeries.
 - force organisations to be more open.
 - accessibility.
- Equal Partners
 - better methods to ensure equal partnerships.
 - equal status within partnerships.

Issues & solutions identified by the group for inclusion in the sustainability wheel produced at the event

- Better sharing of info
 - accessibility (e.g. plain English, formats, literacy etc. inc. verbal, patience).
 - open surgeries to ensure organisations are more open e.g. expand Freedom of Information. More accessible information from public and voluntary sectors and encourage private sector to do the same.
- Education
 - better communication between people and organisations.
 - better education on community involvement from early age.
- Resources/Funding
 - affordability especially in rural areas.
 - acknowledge different needs in rural areas.
- Better Communication
 - better feedback from meetings back to participants in community.
 - need a community leader/facilitator to enthuse and drive.
- Equal Partnership
 - shared vision (overarching all).
 - develop methods to ensure equal partnership (Not patronising).
 - feel has improved over last year.

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

FAIR FOR EVERYONE

1. Shared vision between communities and organisations.
2. Equal partnerships – develop methods to ensure EQUAL PARTNERSHIP.
3. Better communication between different sectors – Education on Community Involvement from an early age.
4. Resources – Acknowledge different needs of rural areas.
5. Better communication – better feedback to participants on results of consultation and events.
6. Equal Partnership – establish community leaders/facilitators.
7. Better sharing of/accessibility of Information – ensure organisations are open with information and encourage private sector to do the same.