

Community Assets

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What we are going to cover?

- Why this is important
- What we mean by community assets
- The Changing environment
- Some examples of new approaches
- What do we have in B&NES
- Taking this forward in B&NES

Why this is important?

- Public sector resources reducing and need to find new ways of working
- Community development comes from within communities
- Each community is different
- Aim to mobilise the assets within a community to meet their needs and aspirations
- Give communities more control

What do we mean by Community Assets?

- Physical Assets
 - Land, buildings, space, money
- Individuals:
 - Residents of the community - experience, skills and knowledge, connections
- Organisations
 - Groups of people, club, Institutions, Public services, private business, schools, GP surgeries

Changing Context

- Legislative changes
 - Localism Act:
 - Community Right to Bid, Challenge, Build
- External pressures
 - Financial context
 - Demographic change
- Changed expectations
 - Communities expect positive engagement on local issues

Community Right to Bid

- LA maintains list of land assets nominated by the community
- Current use of the building/land must further the social wellbeing or interests
- Voluntary or community bodies with a local connection able to request something be placed on the register
- Listing requires notice when being sold and timescales to enable community to bid
- Not yet enacted

Community Right to Challenge

- Gives voluntary and community groups, social enterprises, charities, parish councils and relevant local authority staff the right to submit an expression of interest to take over running of a local authority service
- If the Expression is accepted, the Council must undertake a procurement exercise for that service.

Community Right To Build

- Part of new approach to Neighbourhood Planning
- Designed to allow a particular scheme (new affordable housing or community facilities) to go forward so long as there is local support
- The local community would need to identify the land and other resources needed for the project
- The idea also is that the benefits of the development will be retained by the community

Examples in Bath & North East Somerset

- *Community@67*- re-using a shop and host to a range of projects in Keynsham
- *Bath City Farm*- lottery funding allow it to expand its work with volunteers
- *The new Library at Paulton*- acting as “The Hub” for community activity in the village
- *Bath Central Library*- also hosting the Volunteer Centre
- *New One-Stop Shop*- including services from Curo, CAB and other partners
- *Somer Valley FM Radio*- helping train young people and reach the wider community

The Wiltshire Example

- Council supports principle of the transfer of community assets to empower and strengthen local communities.
- Believes that transferring appropriate public assets to communities leads to more responsive services that better meet local people's priorities.

Community Campuses

A new or existing building in a community area where people can access local services.

Will be developed through input from local people to ensure each campus is as individual as the community it serves

Current discussions

Current discussions are taking place with:

- Peasedown St John Parish Council
- Midsomer Norton Town Council
- Paulton Parish Council
- Various community and voluntary organisations

What assets do we have in B&NES?

The annual cost of running 90 Council Community Assets identified so far is over £7m. Includes:

- 15 Community Centres
- 6 Youth Centres
- 22 Children's Centres
- 8 Libraries
- 4 Museums and Galleries
- 15 Parks and open spaces

Further Assets

- Other non-Council Community Assets
 - 31 GP surgeries and clinics
 - 57 Church, public and village halls
 - 113 Places of Worship
 - And more?

Taking this forward in B&NES

- Consider programme of transfer to local councils and/or voluntary groups
- Look at what support is needed in making best use of community assets
- Consider alternative models, Community Hubs
- Test out “appetite” for asset transfer
- Working with local councils and local people
Identify facilities that are key local priorities
- Unlock potential investment through changes in lease arrangements etc.
- Develop new ways of working

Key Issues

- Cost savings and reduce dependency on public funding
- Develop innovative ways of delivering community based services
- Potential for area-based approach
- Increased opportunities to attract external funding
- Need to assess support for community groups to ensure long-run viability

Potential roles for the Panel

- Identifying good practice
- Informing and shaping Policy Development- as work progresses
- Regular updates
- Monitoring and evaluation- checking back on outcomes
- Build links with other Panels' work