

6. Active, resourceful citizens in Lancing, now and in the future

Summary: Lancing is a place where passionate people work hard to make things better. More connections and linkages between citizen action and decision-making about the future of Lancing would be helpful.

Lancing's story	Quotations
<p>Groups and services run by volunteers touch many people's lives in Lancing. Social groups protect against loneliness and isolation. Environmental groups look after gardens, the streets and the beach. Business associations strive to work together to provide a local economy that works for local people.</p>	<p><i>"I have found the people of Lancing to be one of the most engaging groups and really enthusiastic for change, however, it appears that Lancing is often overlooked, yet it would be an area where utilising Volunteers, Businesses, Primary Care and the Neighbourhood could make a huge difference"</i> - Worker in the area, aged 50-59, survey respondent.</p>
<p>All this citizen activity creates a lot of "on-the-ground" knowledge about life in Lancing and about the improvements that would make a real difference to people's experience of place. It was felt that an opportunity to connect the knowledge and action of residents and businesses into place making decisions was being missed.</p>	<p><i>"Church groups are great and cheap"</i> - A Parent and Carer reflecting on opportunities to socialise.</p> <p><i>"Through volunteering I am aware of many children in poverty or whose families struggle"</i> - Resident and Parent / carer, aged 40-49, survey respondent.</p>
<p>It was noted that stronger linkages between citizen action and local authority planning was important for the future of Lancing, as well as a stronger relationship between citizen concerns and large investment in place-based infrastructure (housing, energy, transport, environment).</p>	<p><i>"Supporting current volunteer projects to ensure that volunteers are supported and funding is available"</i> - Resident, worker, parent / carer, aged 30-39, survey respondent.</p>
<p>In survey responses there was a particular interest in affordable housing, sustainable transport, community spaces and intergenerational exchanges. And across the voluntary group, youth group and survey responses there was interest in funding streams for existing projects that are working well, especially so they could secure long term rental of premises on the high street. Appetite for a community 'hub' was strong.</p>	<p><i>"I think that the whole area around "Lancing's environment" is very exciting and transformative. Whether it be protection, enhancement or rewilding this area and lots of the people are advocates, volunteers and involved. A considerable effort lies ahead to bring them in but the new green, carbon zero structures and jobs will have willing support and participation here"</i> - Resident, worker, parent / carer, aged 70-79, survey respondent.</p> <p><i>"Development projects need to be owned by the community and start from the ground up"</i> - A reflection by a Health and Community Professional Lunch and Learn.</p> <p><i>"Traders and LPC and ADC to work in better partnership"</i> - Parent / carer, aged 20-29, survey respondent.</p>

Unanswered questions

- What is the contribution to the local economy of volunteering? (asked by members of the Voluntary sector coffee morning).
- How can we lobby private landlords to make vacant lots available for community use?
- Why can't every house have solar? (asked by a member of Age UK social club).
- What about Sompting? Is it part of this? (asked by members of the Voluntary sector coffee morning).
- Who gave permission for the Post Office to become a Ladbrooks (encouraging more people to gamble)? (asked by members of the Voluntary sector coffee morning).
- Build the community to work together. Why isn't the Parish Hall the Hub of the community?
- How do we connect the strengths of Lancing? (Asked at the business breakfast).