Community led Regeneration in Hastings – Challenges and Opportunities

Steve Manwaring
Hastings Fiction 1914

- Uncertain employment
- Poor housing conditions
- Low wages
- Poor Health
- Living “Hand to mouth”
Hastings Fact 2014

- Uncertain employment
- Poor housing conditions
- Low wages
- Poor Health
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Hastings and its issues

• Hastings problems are typical of many English coastal towns

• Since 1970’s under-investment in infrastructure tourism and housing.

• Gradual decline combined with collapse of large scale manufacturing

• Low wage, seasonal part time employment base.

• 180 degree economy + poor communications road and rail.
Hastings and its issues

- Low cost rental accommodation
- High turnover of residents over 25% in some areas
- 17% of children live in poverty in the South East (in Hastings it is 29%).
- An ageing population with issues of isolation, poverty, health and wellbeing
- 5 wards in worst 10% nationally and 16 in worst 20%
Hastings and its issues

• Life expectancy is 8.9 years lower in the most deprived areas than in the least.

• Drink and drugs are significant issues for the Town

• Food and fuel poverty are concerning

• Welfare reform changes problematic

• Lots of people “living on the edge”
Regeneration so Far

• 2002, Hastings was awarded £38 million to implement a regeneration strategy based on:-

  • Educational reform

  • Higher and Further Education facilities

  • Better and more advanced infrastructure to attract new businesses and inward investment

  • Still a work in progress…
A Partner in Regeneration?
Communities have deficiencies and needs.

Communities and its citizens have capacities and assets.
Thriving Voluntary and Community Action

• Social Capital a significant resource

• Many connections associations and a “real sense of community”

• Importance of networks and associations to support and give a sense of belonging

• Genuine affection for the Town and doing something about it (Pier share offer)
Key Questions

• How can we ensure that everyone benefits from the regeneration of Hastings

• How do we support those we identify as being at risk of “missing out”

• What extra provision can be made for those who have additional support needs.

• How can we maximise the contribution of the community in improving the Borough
Challenges

* Limited sense of using history
* Limited time/capacity for learning and reflection
* Loss of corporate memory
* No wonder communities have engagement fatigue!!
## Component of Organizational Theory

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<tr>
<th>Explicit</th>
<th>Tacit</th>
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<tr>
<td>Vision</td>
<td>Knowledge from “the tricks of the trade” / expertise</td>
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<td>Values</td>
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<td>Organisations’ operations processes</td>
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<td>Organisations’ histories</td>
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<td>Knowledge / staff</td>
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<td>Embedded tacit knowledge</td>
<td>Habit of thinking</td>
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<td>How to</td>
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<td>Embedded knowledge / skills</td>
<td>Lessons over time</td>
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<td>Semantic understanding</td>
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the iceberg metaphor

explicit

tacit

Image from flickr user featherplucker
The consultation process today...

Do you think that the development plan is -
A. Very good.
B. Incredibly good.
C. Extremely good.
A perfect deliberative environment would be where everyone can access any information. And anyone can converse with anyone else. Where everyone has the power to produce information that can be shared instantaneously anywhere in the world.
Thanks for Listening