



Community Conversations: Scotland

Facilitated by Ruth Ibegbuna as part of the David Hume Institute's Action Project

Conversations from Castlehill, Clackmannanshire, Buckhaven, Campbeltown, Stranraer and Wigtownshire

Nov 2020–Feb 2021



The David Hume Institute's Action Project brings people together from across Scotland to consider the actions required to move faster towards a more prosperous, sustainable, inclusive and fair country.

Through honest, facilitated conversations we aim to identify concrete actions which will help Scotland move forward faster.

Roots Community Conversations

Facilitated by Ruth Ibegbuna

Covid-19 has shaken our communities and made many aware who were not before of the radically different experiences in Scotland.

We are working with partner organisations who have established relationships in local communities to bring people together in a facilitated session to identify actions that individuals, the community and people in power can take to move faster to a prosperous, sustainable, inclusive and fair community.



The sessions are facilitated by Ruth Ibegbuna from the successful [Roots Programme](#). Roots is a radical initiative that believes our society benefits when we bring together people with different lives in an authentic and meaningful way.

Working with community partners in Castlehill, Clackmannanshire, Buckhaven, Campbeltown and Stranraer and Wigtownshire, we have spoken to over 100 community members and changemakers who identified the actions that could bring about change in their area. From encouraging people to vote to litter picks, these conversations posed a wide range of actions, including:

- Changing the perception of area - drop the labels e.g. "deprived"
- Reclaim disused spaces and buildings
- Spreading smiles - individually and collectively
- Ensure all voices are heard - people in power listening deeply but also community "leaders"
- Ensure opportunities for young and old to come together and understand each other's perspective
- Ensure procurement locally within the council area to support local jobs

The illustrated notes of these conversations can be found below.

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CASTLEHILL ROOTS CONVERSATION

17th NOVEMBER 2020



CREATING
Change
IN OUR
COMMUNITIES

LOVING WHERE YOU LIVE

PEOPLE PROBLEM SOLVING TOGETHER

LISTENING DEEPLY + AUTHENTICALLY

CREATIVITY as a TOOL to BRING COMMUNITY TOGETHER

FAITH as a FOUNDATION

FAMILY

ROLE MODELS to Inspire YOUNG PEOPLE

WARM + WELCOMING... (but there is a FEAR FACTOR...)

IT'S ACCEPTED that YOUNG PEOPLE MOVE to the CITY...

PEOPLE are PROUD + PROTECTIVE of IDENTITY

but PEOPLE OFTEN RETURN to SETTLE...

for YOUNG PEOPLE that there are OPPORTUNITIES

ACTIONS

Hope

BUILDING FOUNDATIONS of POSITIVITY for RESIDENTS + FAMILIES

"KEEP AT IT"

REACHING PEOPLE to be LISTENED TO...



Pride Hope



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ALLOA/CLACKS ROOTS CONVERSATION

18th NOVEMBER 2020

Confidence
to create the CHANGES
NEEDED in our
COMMUNITY



YOUR ROOTS
DON'T HAVE
to BE WHERE
YOU GREW UP

IMPORTANT
PART of WHO
WE ARE

ACCEPTING NEGATIVES
+ APPRECIATING the
POSITIVES

CONNECTION with
FAMILY

SOLIDARITY

WE NEED to
PUSH TOURISM...
BEAUTIFUL SCENERY
GREAT GOODS



IS DEFINITELY WELCOMING...
"I FEEL LIKE I BELONG"

ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE ARE
ROUGH/DERELICT PARTS...
ALLOA

"it's nearly charming...but a little bit dishevelled"

DOESN'T
FEEL
DEMOCRATIC

THERE'S a
GREAT ONLINE
COMMUNITY

A LOT of 'UNKNOWN HISTORY' - SHOULD BE TAUGHT AT SCHOOL!
LOSS of HERITAGE BUILDINGS RECENTLY

QUIET +
PEACEFUL

SMALL

'NOT the PLACE
to MOVE to'

"ALLOA/CLACKS LABELS..."

INCLUSION
eg. AUDIO TOURS

SKILL
SHARING

SUPPORTING
LOCAL

INCLUSIVE
VOICES

WHISKY HISTORY...

SAFETY, JOB, ECONOMY,
SOCIAL CONNECTIONS is
BEING better ADDRESSED

YOUNG PEOPLE
can feel 'FORCED'
to RELOCATE...

MORE SUPPORT
NEEDED
from GOV
TOO MUCH FOCUS
on LONDON +
BIG BUSINESS

OPPORTUNITIES
are a
CHALLENGE
for YOUNG
PEOPLE

Factories
etc were
CLOSED +
NOTHING to
REPLACE them

ACTIONS

FOR CREATING
a STRONGER
COMMUNITY
with more HOPE

BOOSTING
TOURISM
THROUGH VLOGS,
COMMUNITY
INPUT

COLLECTING
COMMUNITY
CONTENT
to SHARE the
BEAUTY of our
AREA



DIGITAL
UPSKILL
OPPORTUNITY
to TEACH to
GET INVOLVED

BETTER INFO
ON WALKS, CYCLE
ROUTES, LOCAL
ASSETS



ENCOURAGING
BETTER TRANSPORT
& ACTIVITIES for YOUNG PEOPLE



ENCOURAGE
PEOPLE to VOTE



STRONG VOICES
are GETTING a
BETTER PLATFORM

BUT LISTENING
is MOVING in
the RIGHT
DIRECTION...



BEING
CONFIDENT
to GET OUT +
GET to KNOW
YOUR
COMMUNITY

LACK of
POLICE SUPPORT



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BUCKHAVEN ROOTS CONVERSATION

25th NOVEMBER 2020



ENSURING that
COMMUNITIES
FEEL **Connected**



COMMUNITY
ROOTS

BEING
REMINDED
OF HOME

ENJOY
AREA

SMILE =

POSITIVITY
'bird in bush'

ACTIVITIES
that can help
PEOPLE to
CONNECT

BUT we NEED
TRANSPARENCY,
SUPPORT + 'Understanding'



'REAL IMPACT
HAPPENING IN
EDINBURGH'

'this area
is being
KEPT POOR
by POLITICS'

WESTMINSTER
is VERY
far away
FROM
BUCKHAVEN



EVERYBODY KNOWS EVERYBODY
'NATURALLY NOSEY...
BUT ONLY to GET to
KNOW EACHOTHER'



BECAUSE of COMMUNITY
CLOSENESS - HISTORY is SHARED



MORE ACCESS
to MINING etc
HISTORY

'the REFERENDUM
SEPARATED the
COMMUNITY'

ACTIONS

FOR CREATING
a STRONGER
COMMUNITY
with more HOPE

'BUCKHAVEN LABELS...'

'LEFT
BEHIND'

'DEPRIVED'

'a bit
APATHETIC'

COMMUNITY
CENTRE
ACTIVITIES
eg. MUSIC for YOUNG
PEOPLE



COMMITTEE
STEERING
GROUPS
for YOUNG PEOPLE



COMMUNITY
CLEAN UP
SCHEMES
PRIDE in OUR
AREAS



IMPROVE
COMMUNICATION
ONLINE + BOARDS



'OPEN DOOR
POLICY'

MORE
COMMUNITY
MEETINGS
to COLLECT
NEW IDEAS

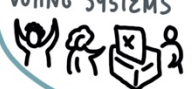


KNOWLEDGE
SWAPS
eg. TREE
PLANTING



'ENGAGE
+ SMILE'

PARTICIPATORY
EVENTS that
INCLUDE ALL
VOTING SYSTEMS

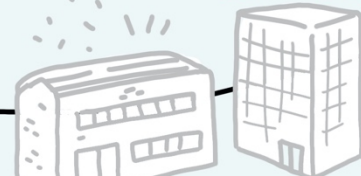


YOUNG
PEOPLE are
LISTENED to
IN SCHOOL
but NOT OUTSIDE

CREATING
STRUCTURES to
HELP ACHIEVE our
GOALS



BUT JOB OPPORTUNITIES
LOOK DIFFERENT...



GOOD OPTIONS
for
ENGAGEMENT



'TURNING LISTENING
into ACTION'

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CAMPBELTOWN ROOTS CONVERSATION

26th JANUARY 2021

SUPPORTED BY INSPIRALBA
+ KINTYRE COMMUNITY
RESILIENCE GROUP

Confidence

TO CREATE THE CHANGES
NEEDED IN OUR COMMUNITY...
EXPLORING OUR ROOTS + EVERY
ONES PERSPECTIVE

LOOKING PAST
THE NEGATIVE PRESS
+ FINDING BEAUTY

PEOPLE DON'T
ALWAYS SEE
YOUR ROOTS

SPECIAL AREAS
+ FEATURES OF
OUR TOWN

SENSE OF
COMMUNITY

NOSTALGIA
+ FAMILY
MEMORIES

LOCAL PEOPLE
LOVE SHARING
HISTORY

PROUD
HISTORY IS PASSED
THROUGH GENERATIONS
+ COMMUNITY

LOCAL HISTORY
COULD BE
BETTER IN
SCHOOLS

HISTORY +
HERITAGE
VERY
FAR AWAY
FRIENDLY
BUZZ
BIG HEART

"CAMPBELTOWN LABELS..."
"UNKNOWN BUT PEOPLE FALL IN LOVE WITH IT"

VOLUNTEERING
PLATFORM
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
eg. SKILLS BANK

YOUNG PEOPLES
VOICES TO BE
BETTER HEARD

LOCAL STORIES
FOR TOURISTS/
YOUNG PEOPLE

SCIENCE TECH
ENGLISH MATHS

THINK
Ambitious
THINK
BOLD

Next
Generation
NOT OPPORTUNITIES

ACTIONS

within 6 months...

FOR A STRONGER
COMMUNITY with
HOPE FOR THE
NEXT GENERATION

SUPPORT
ELDERLY
COMMUNITY
TO LEARN TECH
(YOUNG PEOPLE
WORK EXPERIENCE)
SHOPPING CARING

SMART
VILLAGES
HELPING US TO
CONNECT +
ENGAGE

MORE TECHNOLOGY
ACCESS
eg. HEALTHCARE,
TRAVEL, EDUCATION

ROAD
SOLUTIONS
BE VOCAL!

SUPPORT TO
ACCESS SERVICES

TOWN HALL AS
A HUB

TOURISM
WET WEATHER
ACTIVITIES

NETWORKING
GROUPS...
KNOWLEDGE +
SKILLS

ADVOCACY
+ BEFRIENDING

PROBLEM WITH
SCHOOLS + THEIR
FOCUS

"WE CAN REACH AUTHORITIES
BUT DO THEY LISTEN?"

"THINGS DON'T
SEEM TO CHANGE"

BUILD PATH
TO WORK
OPPORTUNITIES

"DON'T FEEL HEARD
OR LISTENED TO"

FERRY

NO SUPPORT
FROM GOV/
WESTMINSTER

EG OUR
MAIN CONNECTING
ROAD

FEEL ISOLATED
WHEN THE ROAD
IS CLOSED

CLIMATE
CHANGE
+ CONNECTIVITY

WORKING
TOGETHER
WITH GOVERNMENT

"ONLY TOURISM
OR INDUSTRY JOBS"

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STRANRAER + WIGTOWNSHIRE
ROOTS CONVERSATION
9th FEBRUARY 2021

ACTIONS

FOR A STRONGER
COMMUNITY with
HOPE FOR THE
NEXT GENERATION

Conversations

ABOUT the PLACES WE CARE ABOUT

LISTENING
+ BEING
HEARD...

WHAT'S
IMPORTANT
TO YOU +
GIVES YOU
STRENGTH

CONNECTIONS
WITH FAMILY
+ THE HISTORY
of AREAS

BRINGING PEOPLE
in the
COMMUNITY
Together

FRIENDLY
GOOD PEOPLE!
MUSIC BRINGS
PEOPLE
TOGETHER

CONNECTING
WITH PEOPLE

OPEN WATER
+ CONNECTION
WITH a PLACE

"STRANRAER LABELS..."
"FEELING THAT THE TOWN is
IN NEED of RENNOVATION/
REJUVINATION..."

HERITAGE
CENTRE

IMPROVE
TRANSPORT
ACCESS +
PRICES

GOOD NEWS
STORIES
INTERNSHIP
WITH THE UN

WORKSHOPS
for YOUNG
PEOPLE
LIFE
SKILLS

BETTER INFO
ON LOCAL
ACTIVITIES
BOTH ONLINE
+ IN PERSON

PROVIDE
SPACES for
CONVERSATIONS
to HAPPEN

CLEARER INFO
ON LOCAL
ORGANISATIONS

HOPE to LEAD to
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT

ERADICATE
HEALTH
INEQUALITIES

BECAUSE of
BEING BEHIND
WITH TECH

ACCESSIBILITY
FOR ALL

UNLOCKING
GEORGE
HOTEL
CHANGE

BETTER COUNCIL
SUPPORT/
TEAMS

HELP from
YOUNG
PEOPLE

COMBATING
ISOLATION
+ LONELINESS

ART + CULTURE

LACK of Communication...

"PROBLEM with
'NEGATIVE
FORUMS'..."

"BARRIERS for DISADVANTAGED"
"POWER has BEEN DRAINED from
OUR COMMUNITY to DUMFRIES"

"CAUGHT BETWEEN a
ROCK + a HARD PLACE"

"IT'S A SHAME
YOUNG PEOPLE
HAVE to MOVE
AWAY FOR WORK"

NOT BEING
HEARD...

"FEEL FORGOTTEN
BY WESTMINSTER, HOLYROOD
+ LOCAL GOVERNMENT..."

"IT WOULD
BE IMPORTANT
to DEVELOP
MORE OPPORTUNITIES,
TO ENABLE PEOPLE
TO STAY"

NEW OPPORTUNITIES
to WORK REMOTELY
POST LOCKDOWN

BORDER/PORT COMMUNITY
USED to VISITORS PASSING THROUGH
It is welcoming to all!

"ALTHOUGH THERE CAN
BE A SLIGHT SEPARATION IF YOU
DIDN'T GROW UP HERE..."

HISTORY
HAS MAYBE BEEN
a LITTLE LOST...

PARTICULARLY our SEA HERITAGE...

CASTLE ST JOHNS

STRANRAER +
WIGTOWNSHIRE

HISTORY of
STRANRAER + WIGTOWNSHIRE