

South Molton Ideas Factory Outcomes

This document represents a summary of the discussions and ideas generated at the Ideas Factory event held on Wednesday 27th September at the Assembly Rooms. This is a living document and we welcome your comments, additions, and amendments. To contribute to the discussions, contact the Community Unity team via email:

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Or call Mike, Aggie or Katherine on 01392 248919

Topic One: Challenges and Connections

1. When was the last time people in South Molton came together to solve a challenge (or issue) affecting the community?

- To stop Tesco coming to the Town
- When they were closing the Hospital
- Carnival
- 1978 when heavy snow fell
- Choirs
- Bridge

2. How do you think the community could become better connected and build stronger relationships between its different sectors? Is there a specific opportunity that could make a big difference?

- If the carnival began organising earlier in the year young people could become a larger part of this.
- When the Tesco and Hospital issues occurred this crossed across ages and political affiliation so it does happen.
- Young volunteers should be facilitated through the college and NCS to get involved in community matters.
- More local organisations should be making it easier for DofE volunteers to spend time with them.
- Lacking a Community Forum
- When there was foot and mouth a lot of resources came into the town and resulted in building projects and infrastructure, that is running out now and there are lasting problems.

Topic Two: Activities and Engagement

3. Are there any activities in your community that you'd like to see happening, that don't currently happen?

New Activities:

- Youth Meddlers – it will be good to provide a skill exchange with Meddlers + Men in Sheds

What's needed to make this project happen:

- Young people to be engaged with
 - PR (e.g. social media, website etc.)
 - Someone to facilitate it (e.g. Amy)
 - Relevant activities (driven by young people's interest)
 - Funding
 - Training (for young people, for facilitators and for Meddlers)
 - Facility (Building/ a storage etc.)
 - Tools
 - Sponsorship, social responsibility, skill share, getting new skills.
- Café / Smoothie Bar for 17-21 years old is setting up at the moment. It will be an evening time activity

What needed to make this project happen:

- Funding for a building
- Sustainability
- As above

Other comments:

- There used to be a designated youth/community worker to make relationships
- Need to find local in town
- Maybe a capacity issue for groups to accommodate
- Young people+ more people + more activities

GAPS

- activities for 17-21 years old young people
- "Befriending" especially for people of working age, hard to reach, disabled and with no transport
- Linking young people with the Police
- Service/ scheme – transport for people to leisure/ social activities

4. What activities do you think might work to better involve young people with the community? Bringing them together with older generations, or engaging them with the town as a whole.

Young people and older people are disconnected because they never cross paths. Involve Young People in the emergency plan, don't be scared to ask them to get involved in things. Music can cross generations, link Amy's music project with the Jazz club.

It's been raised that every new activity needs to include the following aspects/ factors:

- Safeguarding training/policy awareness in place
- Appropriate training for a youth worker/s
- Number of volunteers
- Getting/ making people interested in project/s
- Building up a sustainability between the project/ funding etc.
- Capacity/ Time
- Young people need to fill ownership of project (e.g. kids doing murals)
- Power given to young people

Examples of projects:

- Scouts
- Youth Meddlers
- Clean ups/ cleaning streets/ roads sites etc.
- Simple interactions between young people and old people e.g. dancing, music, singing
- IT – young people helping older people with IT, computers e.g. skype, Facebook etc.
- Young people doing gardening for older people
- Activities helping breaking barriers

Benefits:

- Social networking
- New skills/ sharing skills, proactive skills. Giving people an opportunity to get a new skill
- Breaking barriers between young and old people
- Social knowledge
- Reduces social isolation especially in rural communities

Project / Opportunities lost:

- Men in Sheds - School partnership
- Forest School - lost funding

Great example of activities:

- The Bridge Project (funding also recently lost)

5. Training and Development Needs Session

- Better Access to fundraising
- Training + support
- IT , computer skills
- Musical Instrument skills
- Adult literacy

- Mental Health First Aid
- General first aid
- Infographic , IT training

Topic Three: Resilience and Opportunities

6. How could you help the community in a minor emergency such as power cuts or freak weather?

The answer to this question were more ideas for the whole community rather than what anyone individual could offer.

- There should be a local contact/ Venue in the Town for when you can't get through to emergency services.
- Methodist Church Hall could be used in an Emergency
- Need to know who the people in the town who have useful resources are.
- Don't be scared to ask the question "could you help and how?"
- Build confidence in the Parish Councils and Communities to develop emergency plans – show they don't have to be massive documents and share other areas plans.
- The Rotary can be used they are integral to a lot of plans across Devon – good at Publicity and small funding pots available.
- South Molton News is a great way to get information out.
- Build connections in the communities, organise buddying schemes so that connections and built and local knowledge grows. Go into Pubs and think of innovative ways of raising awareness around issues and social isolation.

7. What new skills or training opportunities would enable you to do more in these situations?

- People are reluctant to help in situations due to Insurance and Health & Safety for example moving branches from the road, knocking on a neighbours door.
- Explode the myths around what Community members can or can't do in their neighbourhoods.
- Training in the following would help: Safeguarding, Attending Resilience Forum, Chapter 8 Training.