





Building Social Capital



Gain for Gainsborough World Café

Introduction

Background

Lincolnshire Police, as part of a wider goal of connecting people in local communities, are supporting four distinct communities in Lincolnshire to make a difference. These communities are in Gainsborough (southwest ward), Sleaford, Skegness and Sutton Bridge.

The World Café events, are designed to bring people together so they can discuss their needs, concerns, and opportunities for change and at the same time build on strengths across these communities in an environment facilitated by professionals but owned by the local community. Hopefully getting people more engaged in their community and working together. With support from MutualGain and other local partners/organisations and businesses, it is hoped to create social capital and "active" citizens.

Volunteers were sought from partner organisations, the police, and the community to be involved in the development and ultimate delivery of the 'Gain for Gainsborough' World Café.

The responsibility for recruiting to the World Cafe and preparation of facilitators guides would fall to neighbourhood staff in the impact areas. (Lincolnshire Police, West Lindsey District Council, Lincolnshire County Council, Lincolnshire Co-Operative; Lincolnshire Community and Voluntary Service, Local Councillors, LEAP, and the NHS were all volunteers to be involved).

MutualGain supported the neighbourhood teams by facilitating a series of online briefings and providing examples of facilitators briefings, as well as answering ad hoc requests for advice and guidance. COVID restrictions severely restricted the timescales for actual delivery of the World Café, but it eventually took place on Saturday 18th September 2021at x-church, Gainsborough.









Planning and Delivery

Although initial contact and training commenced back in early 2020 the actual event didn't take place until September 2021

An incentive to the value of £10 was offered to those who registered and attended the online World Café, with a target of attracting up to 100 people. The funding for the incentives was drawn from the programme budget.

Gainsborough – Gain for Gainsborough World Café

On the afternoon of the event, volunteers and Table Hosts created a welcoming environment for those arriving and thus encouraged free flowing and animated discussion resulting in over 690 comments across the three questions.

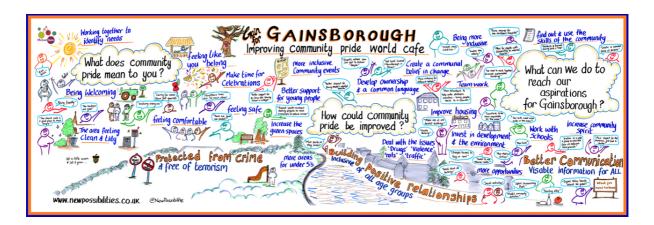
There were three rounds of questions asked at the event as shown below

Round One: What does community pride mean to you? **Round Two**: How could community pride be improved?

Round Three: What can we do to reach our aspirations for Gainsborough?

In total, 694 pieces of individual data were recorded on the tablecloths, with the breakdown per round shown below.

onses



Round One – What does community pride mean to you?

The top four categories that accounted for the largest number of comments are shown in each of the following sections. In round one, the top four were:

Rank	Category	Number of Responses
1	Community outlook	
	and feeling	51
2	Relationship between	
	community members	50
3	Environment	33
4	Community engagement	27

Category	Sub-category	Number of Responses
Community outlook and feeling	Pride Neighbourliness Attitude Respect for Home owners proper	28 6 5 ty 5

Of the 51 comments relating to community pride, many referred to enjoying where you live, having a feeling of comfort and looking forward to coming home. There were a number of issues that related to the environment, with one person stating people feeling responsible for the area and another person taking this further, stating "Improve the look, keeping the area nice."

There were also a number of comments that related to a positive outlook such as "not feeling embarrassed when you come home," and "a shared interest in what happens in my neighbourhood plus I make a point of talking to neighbours." Another person stated:

"Be proud of your community. Not feel ashamed of where you live"







The feeling of belonging connected to pride was also apparent from those attending, including comments such as "a feeling of belonging" and "actually wanting to be in that area."

While there were positive comments in relation to a pride in Gainsborough's history and community values, such as "Community values-norms and common aims, goals, interests, a sense of place," there was a negative comment in relation to clearing rubbish with one person saying:

"Why do I feel responsible for taking rubbish away when others don't?"

In terms of neighbourliness, there was a crossover with the previous subcategory with comments ranging from spreading the right attitude towards neighbours, a sense of belonging and a need to belong. There was one person who commented on trust, stating "you can trust people here," and another person suggesting that people should be nice and friendly with each other.

The comments relating to attitude relate to being a "product of influence – family and peers," "protests," and "a belief in change. A further comment came from one person who stated:

"Standing up for the things they want to do"

The comments relating to respect for homeowners' property were mostly single words such as "housing," and "ownership." The only other comments related to "uncaring owners" and "Agents-Lovills not good."

Category	Sub-category	Number of Responses
Relationship between community members	Working Together Caring for others Friendliness within community Pride in historical Gainsborough	17 16 5

Of the comments based the relationship between community members, the majority related to working together. Four of the comments stated exactly







that, "working together," and referring to "working together, not apart," and "working together to effect positive change." One person took this theme further stating:

"Neighbourhood working together to identify what they need"

There were statements in relation to diversity with one person stating "all backgrounds working together," and another stating "treat people the way that you want to be treated." There was one negative comment in this section with one person stating that there is a "lack of cohesion."

Neighbourliness and community spirit were also mentioned in this subcategory with someone saying that "friends are nearby."

In terms of caring for others, the comments related to "taking care of the elderly and animals", "being nice to neighbours and good community support, locally." The connection to pride arises again with one person stating:

"Pride – caring for more than just yourself"

Friendliness is mentioned twice with someone referring to a "helpful attitude" and someone else mentioning "mutual respect and value."

The remaining comments use the single words "neighbours," with one referring to "taking care of neighbours."

There was one negative comment that stated that there was "a lack of community."

In relation to pride in historical Gainsborough, there was a comment that stated "pride in the community," with two others referring to "history, capital of England," and "the history of Gainsborough." The final comment related to the heritage centre in the area. These comments will be reflected in a later subcategory.

Category	Sub-category	Number of Responses
Environment	Fly Tipping Cleanliness Refuse provision	12 8 6







Vermin control

2

In relation to fly tipping, many of the comments simply said, "fly tipping" or "No fly tipping." There were one or two others that went into a little more detail such as "fly tipping Ashcroft Park" and "Litter picking and keeping the area clean and tidy." One comment was even more specific, stating

"Why do people dump sofas outside?"

In relation to cleanliness, this word was used five times. One person took this further, referring to dogs and warnings and one person states that a clean environment was needed.

The comments that referred to vermin control stated, "good rat population" and "rats, because we are not allowed bins! Council say we need to deal with it."

Category	Sub-category	Number of Responses
Community Engagement	More community events	27

All of the comments under this subcategory related to a request for more community events. Many were one or two word statements such as:

- Events
- More socialising
- Coming together
- Church café
- Setting fires
- Tractor rally
- Marshall's
- Social activities
- More activities
- Farmers market
- Coffee mornings

There was a request for "more free community events to build community." This desire for connectivity was commented upon by another person who stated:







"Community events where you can get to know other people – regular contacts build relationships?"

This proposal was again taken further by two people who proposed conversations to discuss how to improve the area and another who wanted to "get people together – talking about things going on." There was a proposal to establish a spin class to generate light and this environmental focus was echoed by someone who wanted a "west ward clean up."

Celebrating the history of Gainsborough arose again with comments such as "celebration and remembrance days – e.g. Mayflower," "time for celebration," and "capital of England for two weeks.'

Conclusion For Round One

The fact that this question asks people about what community pride means to them, means that it elicits overwhelmingly positive comment.

Analysis of the information collated demonstrates a real feeling of a community that is supportive of each other, proud of the area that they live in and Gainsborough's place in English history. However, the participants of the World Café demonstrated a desire for further connectivity that bodes well for further engagement, including the Participatory Budgeting programme.

It is interesting to note that apart from one comment "the police here are great," there are no negative comments in relation to authorities such as local government, or support services such as Voluntary Centre Services. This suggests a real internal focus that can be built upon with a general feeling of connectivity with neighbours and the broader community.

The community engagement subcategory contains a plethora of proposals that revolve around the community wanting events to connect, build contacts and celebrate the successes of the area.

The overall feeling from round one is one of compassion and positivity.

Round Two - How could community pride be improved?

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The top four categories that accounted for the largest number of comments were:

Rank	Category	Number of Responses
1 2 3 4	Local infrastructure Community engagement Civic amenities Community outlook/feelin	43

Category	Sub-category	Number of Responses
Local infrastructure	More parks/play area Improve housing standard More green space More swimming facili	7 6

The majority of the subcodes related to civic amenities such as parks, swimming facilities, the state of the roads (potholes) and colour in the area.

The top four categories are shown above. In relation to parks and play areas, the majority of comments related to provision for young people and children. Most were unspecific, just asking for more parks or play areas, but one specifically asked for a 'skate park' while another comment was specific in relation to a threat, stating:

"More places to play where you won't get picked on"

Once comment asked for more amenities in a local park, stating "the park down the street needs more to play on."

In relation to improving the standard of housing, the majority of the comments related to the aesthetics of the housing. Comments included "Improve the appearance of the properties en route into the town," "address issues to do with empty property," "rented housing def stand out as needing love."

One person took this position a stage further, proposing:







"Improve building around town, old buildings renovated to flats/shops"

There were generic comments in relation to a request for better housing and better housing management

In relation to green spaces, the comments generally related to a lack of or a request for more green space. Specific comments included "in general of a community fund and gardens," "improve green spaces, more option," and "improve gardens by offering support. Remove barriers such as disability, attitude, cost."

The comments that referred to swimming focused on improvements in provision for swimmers. This included an increase in waterparks and two comments that referred to provision of an outside swimming pool.

One commented related access to swimming to learning a skill:

"Open swimming pool for public use more swimmers which is a life skill - town has a river"

Category	Sub-category	Number of Responses
Community Engagement	More community pro Activities for older pe Involvement for young people Gardening based ev	ople 9

The majority of the comments coded under community engagement involved positive action and activities. In relation to community projects the comments request an increase in community projects, with some requesting that they be used to tackle community ideas. There were suggestions that increased community projects would bring people together and increase civic participation.

Two comments were specific in terms of their focus and activity. The first stated:







The second stated:

"Have more community events, outside screen showing film night, Queens jubilee, other big occasions."

In relation to involvement for young people, the focus was again on activities. This ranged from bike trails, youth clubs, creative activities, activities that feed into specific interests (although none were shared) and one reference to "More groups for under 50's and children to be involved in."

In many cases, the emphasis was on children or young people from the locality.

The idea of activities was also reflected in the subcategory of activities for older people. Interestingly, some were a reflection from those proposed for young people e.g. "bike trails." While some comments were generic, such as "more stuff for adults," or "have activities for the elderly," some were more specific, such as "tabletop sale," "volunteers – getting people to be involved," and "form a community group like the W.I."

The comments shared about gardening-based events related to gardening competitions, helping people to tackle issues with gardens, getting people involved in Gainsborough in bloom.

There were specific activities proposed, such as

"Back alleys cleaned up by residents, to create garden skills."

and

"People getting involved. If 100 trees are to be planted, get local people at it to 'own' a tree."

Conclusion For Round Two

It is clear that the community have ideas in relation to activities that could improve their health and welfare and the feel of the area. While there were cross over comments in relation to demographics, these centred on age,







defining younger people and older people. There were no other demographic groups mentioned e.g. ethnicity or gender.

There is a clear connection between the environment, with people wanting a greener area or wanting to involve themselves in activities relating to gardening. Connecting this into competitions or keeping the area clean is a clear indication of pride in the area.

It is interesting to note the connection between activities focused on young and older people. This bodes well for a Participatory Budgeting (PB) programme that is accessible to all rather than focused on one demographic group.

The other issue that is supportive of a PB opportunity is the fact that there were so many comments relating to activity. The number of comments that were related to service provision or service demand where negligible. It appears that this community are willing to engage in shaping ideas, they simply need the opportunity to do so.

Round Three – What can we do to reach our aspirations for Gainsborough?



The top four categories that accounted for the largest number of comments were:

Rank	Category N	lumber of Responses
1	Community Engagement	28
2	Communication	27
3	Infrastructure	21
4	Education and developme	nt 20

Category	Sub-category	Number of Responses
Community Engagement	Community events Aspiration Environment Schools	20 2 1 1

As can be seen, the vast majority of the comments under this sub category relate to the creation or development of community events. Many comments are non specific, such as "talks," and "get people together." Other comments were a little more focused, with two suggesting that board games and arts and crafts leaders could help to engage the community.

There were proposals in relation to 'community cuppas' and an increase in interaction between local groups that would lift the town's economy both culturally and futuristically.

One comment spoke about the World Café, stating

"More events like World Café to encourage the community to engage."

There were proposals in relation to using crafts and design to engage the community, with one person stating "Unite the whole community -







knitting/carnivals/dance/movies/food markets." A further comment stated "Fun house/arts and crafts/petting zoo/obstacles."

There were similar comments in relation to getting local clubs to unite with a view to increasing involvement. One comment was specific in relation to schools, stating "schools more involved in community and less stand alone."

There were two comments that related to fund raising in connection to community engagement. The first stated "Fund raising projects," and the second stated "fund raising/communication/policing."

In relation to aspiration, the first comment asked 'whose aspiration?' The second had a note of caution, stating

"We need to be realistic as to what we can do"

In relation to the environment, the single comment in this subcategory stated "Have a day planting up green spaces."

The comment that related to schools stated "Schools more involved in community and less stand alone."

Category	Sub-category	Number of Responses
Communication	Communication of Positivity Geography Understanding ne	7 4

The most common statement in relation to communication channels was "vox pops." This was mentioned three times, but there was no further explanation.

There were a number of references made in relation to social media and radio, including "Communication - social media/Gainsborough standard/Gain life/radio," and "losing sense of community due to internet."

Two comments related to the message being shared, with the first asking "what is the message?" The second comment stated "Relevant messages - using relevant media." This concern in relation to how the media is being







used was the subject of further comments, but broadened this out to inclusivity. One person stated "different types of media to target and inform everyone inclusive," while another stated "change language use - needs to be understood by everyone." A final comment asked people to use a common language.

In relation to positivity, the comments related to celebrating success, sharing photographs of events and activities and marketing what people do. There was a desire to allow the community to see the results of engagement, with a suggestion that people should advertise more using 'Gains Life', the Standard and local employers.

One person took this a stage further and related it to upskilling and investment, stating

"Identify existing community groups that are already working in the area and support, upskill and invest."

The comments in relation to geography were somewhat negative. Comments included "Marshall's Yard is not Gainsborough's town centre," "Mr Dransfield is not Gainsborough" and "You come into Gainsborough 2 ways - its causes divide." The only positive message was a little non committal, stating "Raise profile of the area."

In relation to understanding need, the comments here included "understanding neighbours needs," "regular resident group meetings," and "encouraging investment into the area."

The final comment went into a little more detail, stating

"The community need to understand what they really want and how funding works - we need transparency around this."

Category	Sub-category	Number of Responses
Infrastructure	Investment Community assets Regeneration	9 6 6







Most comments made in the conversation in the section related to investment. This included general comments such as Gainsborough needs funds and investment, improving the area, and a new opportunity for shops.

Comments then became more specific, such as "get the council to invest in the town." There were two comments in relation to the market place. The first said "Make market place a centre for eating and drinking," and the second said "Market place reborn - cinema - new shops."

There was comment that contained more detail, stating "Need more funding but if no services we need to fund raise and provide services in kind." The second stated

"Need more funding but if no services we need to fund raise and provide services in kind."

In terms of community assets, the comments again ranged from the general to the specific. General comments included improving the area, sharing gardens and growing produce to "more places for people to go out of the house."

Specific comments included "Open x church for kids so parents can have a rest," "Bus stop with shelter on Vanessa Drive as many use this stop for the doctors," and "Scouts Hill - Picnic benches, splash park, café kiosk (who would run e.g local church/leap/x-church.)"

The comments in relation to regeneration included a non specific comment of refurbishment of premises, to a more specific comment of "Regeneration needed this needs to be what the locals want - via real consultation."

One comment related refurbishment and regeneration to as sense of pride, stating "Sort out the entrance to the town and trinity street - massively smarten it up and increase sense of pride – WLDC."

There were three comments that related to Lea Road School. These were "Lea road school - transform into flamboyant officers and shops/restaurants on ground floor/empty lands for huge park and new housing or business,"

"Lea road school to be turned into an open space for skills workshops for joinery etc," and "Lea road school empty premises could be converted into new premises."







Conclusion for Round Three

The comments in round three were very focused. The comments relate to making the best of the area and the assets that exits, but in order to do so, investment is required.

There are only three comments that refer to where that investment can come from. Two suggest the council, and one, interestingly, suggests that if services cannot provide, then fund raising by the community should be considered.

This is interesting for two reasons. First, it connects into a feeling that volunteering in the area is important and this could involve raising funds to improve the local infrastructure. Second, there is almost a recognition that the council cannot provide the funds required to regenerate the area. This poses the question as to whether the council would be willing to allow the community to start to play a greater part in community regeneration.

Whatever the answer to this, the data suggests that there is a conflicting view as to how Gainsborough is viewed. While Marshall's Yard is an important part of the infrastructure, there appears to be a view that it should not be viewed as the town centre.

Communicating this and positive message across various communication methods was seen as important by those attending the World Café. The opportunity to shout 'loud and proud' about Gainsborough is a central tenet and it should not be dismissed.

Final Conclusion

The data collated suggests that the World Café for Gainsborough (SWW) seems to have been welcomed by those attending. This is important. Where communities embrace deliberative approaches, their shared knowledge and decisions can help to inform services who are then better placed to make informed choices. The key issue is whether those services are willing to empower communities to engage in collaborative deliberations to help serve the common good. The advantage for the local partnership team is that the community appear to be willing and able to engage across a broad spectrum that includes infrastructure.

Community led engagement activities tend to arise organically from people with regular connections through a connected sentiment or shared sense of emotional connection; in this case it may be community pride, community safety or emerging from COVID. It is often the case that some community action involves capturing community assets for the purpose of one small group, and they can often be exclusive in terms of who is able to participate. However, the evidence from this World Café suggests a broad range of actors wanting to engage in connecting and supporting the community wish to do so with a greater desire for inclusivity.

The World Café for Gainsborough (SWW) demonstrated a focused energy that moved away from preserving current engagement options and activities, to one that moved to sharing future opportunities. While some of this may be born from the emergence of the pandemic, the fact is that COVID was mentioned on very few occasions.

The consensus seems to be that people appreciate the area in which they live and work, they see the opportunity to promote it, make it a better and safer place to live and work. The fact that those attending proposed opportunities and connections to enable activities to take shape should be viewed as a positive. Many of the comments collated during the World Café are represented in the data collected from the impact questionnaire (see pages 29 and 30).

Research indicates that empowering communities to collaborate with services needs to abide by three key principles:

- 1. A focus on specific and tangible problems
- 2. Involvement of ordinary people affected by these problems and officials close to them
- 3. The deliberative development of solutions to these problems.







In essence, the first and second principles have been met with a focus on the health, welfare and safety of the community through existing programmes and this World Café. Consideration when addressing the final point could result in improved relationships that encourage people to volunteer to undertake a range of roles that would fit with the aims of the programme in building social capital.

The social capital at family and community level appears to be high with people wanting to improve things for young people, the elderly and a focus on neighbours. There was no shortage of suggestions for activities. The potential to offer the community to being these to life through PB is clear. The key will be to continue to engage with the community, encourage them to participate in shaping the PB programme and take some level of responsibility for making the PB programme a community led process.

The key themes that we will use to inform our PB process are:

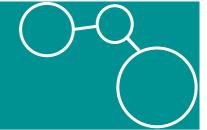
1. Civic Engagement

- Community groups that empower the community to network and socialise, while addressing local issues in partnership/ that will help inform local public services.
- o A focus on provision of services for young people
- A focus on building on the pride that was shared through this World Café event

2. Community Activities, Services and Support

- o Activities and support for young people within the area
- Accessible services, activities and resources for the wider community
- A focus on environmental issues including developing green spaces.

Once completed, it is vital that the successes are shared throughout the community in order to swell that community pride that shines through this analysis.



At the conclusion of the World Café, people were asked to comment on the event and place their comment on one of three posters with smiley faces on them. This gives us an immediate view as to whether those attending the event had a positive listening experience. The feedback is shown below:



Comment		
A brilliant day, thanks a lot		
I thought it was a really great way for the community to get involved so we can		
make sure we improve the community and area for our kids. My kids loved		
having their say.		
A really nice day. Met some interesting people and hopefully we can bring the		
community together		
I really enjoyed it		
Lovely - thank you!		
Claire was here! :)		
Enjoyed this event - thank you!		
:)		
Great!!		
Collaboration and communication		
:)		
A nice, friendly, informative and enjoyable event		
:)		
[:]		
It was an amazing event - so fun!		
Fantastic		
I have had my say and its fantastic		
Really enjoyed the day - very thought provoking		
An eye opener - more going on then I thought. Willingness to try		
Great to discuss and network with others		
:)		
Hopefully we will have some great outcomes from this		



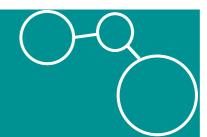




:) very informative	
Not too bad - Hope something is sone from this	
:)	
Fantastic and fun	
Interesting, lets hope the council get on with improving the community	
Very interesting afternoon	
Quite positive but lets see! Hope it leads to change	

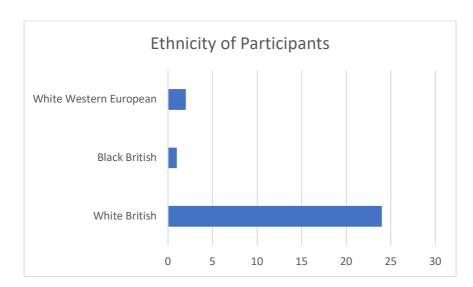
There were no comments on the medium or sad face.

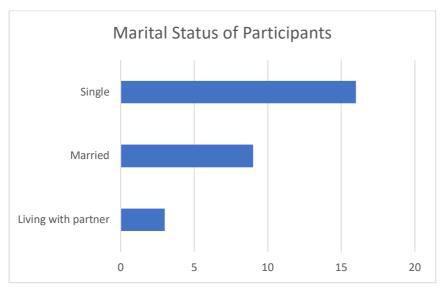
Equality Data



On arrival the attendees were asked to complete an equality form, as well as an impact form. The data collated helps us to understand who we have reached within the community. (Completing these forms is not compulsory).

These are the responses from the Equality forms:

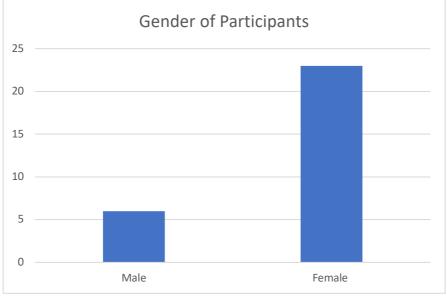


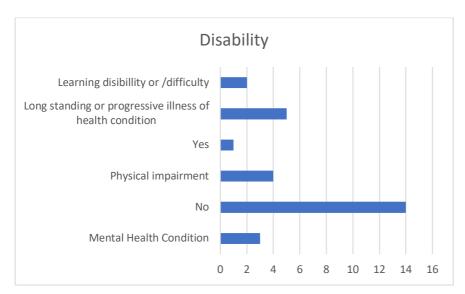


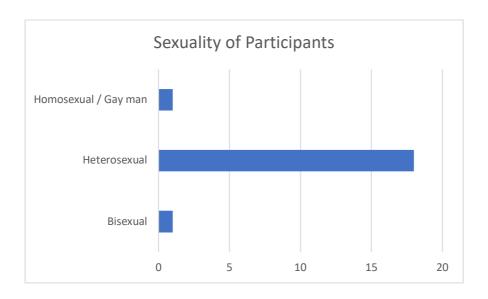








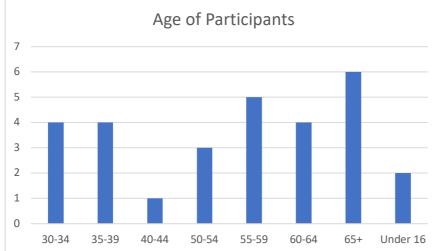


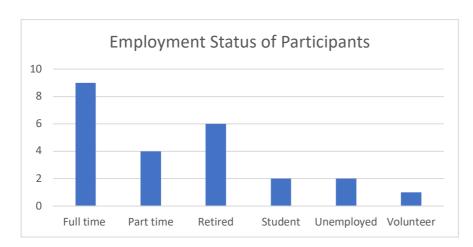










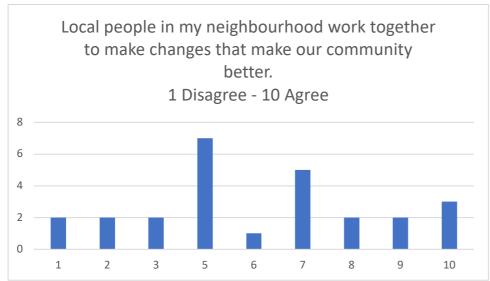


Impact Data

Below are the responses from the impact forms that were circulated at the beginning of the session:

(The majority of the questions asked the community to state what degree they agree with the statement on a scale of 1-10 (1 being strongly disagree and 10 being strongly agree)

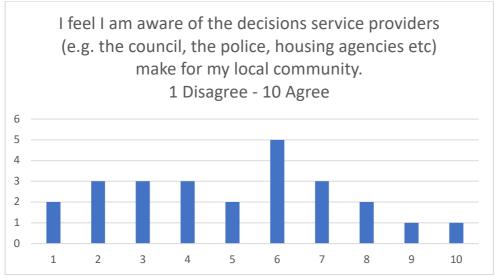


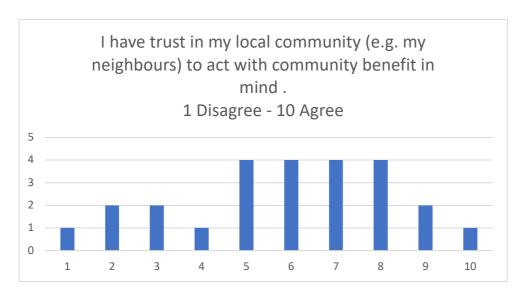










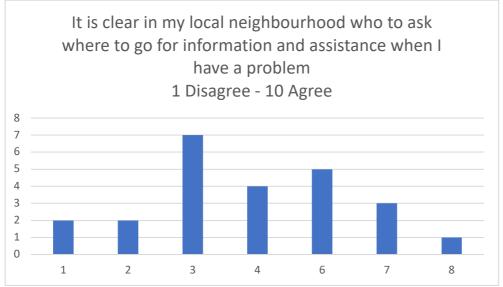


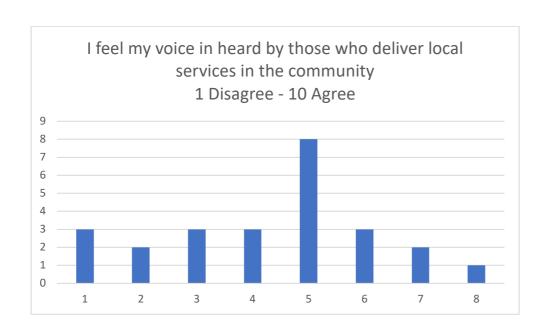










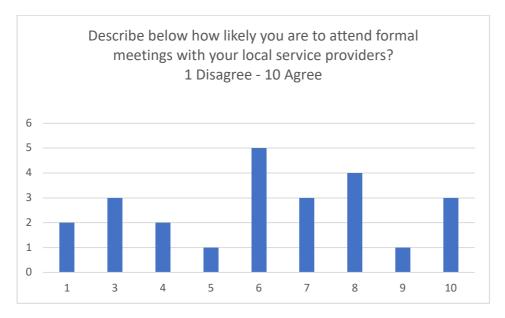


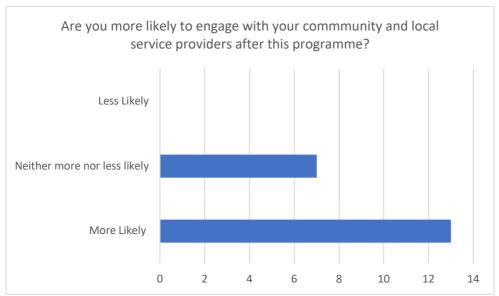


























What particular area of focus do you think community engagement should be targeted around in your community?

- Dog walking area/ Play spaces for kids/ Youth Clubs
- Crime vehicles vandalised, fly tipping in alleys and carparks, drug dealers prominent in the area and make no secret of it / More for children and young people ie splash pad instead of utilising marshals yard fountain
- More things for kids, there's no play park close by for kids where they can go after school/weekends/holidays
- Improvement
- Spoke to Antigua at length
- West ward
- Crime, esp burglary, vandalism, improve appearance of streets more greenery
- More events to bring people together to develop community led plans and improvements. Develop a sense of ownership and belonging amongst local residents
- Young people
- ASB. Clean and safe park areas for children
- Cleanliness and presentation
- To see police walking around and keeping us safe / Fly tipping
- Fly tipping
- More group activities and more advertising so that people know where to go and when etc etc.
- Streetlights, CCTV, Cameras, more policing / There have been several street thieves targeting the area
- Access to appropriate educational provisions / cultural events / awareness of children's specific struggles in the area / community views on their local area or for the future
- CCTV / Cleaning up the area / more bins / dog bins
- More funding for the adults centre / More bungalows for the elderly / Tidy up the area / Do up all run down buildings or have as accommodations / Paint the rest of the BT boxes / Improve town centre
- Streetlights / ASB / Crime / Encouraging keeping front yards tidy
- It's a safety issue concerning lea road station, with the intro of new trains the gap is dangerously wide and deep especially for small children, luggage and those with mobility issues







What do you hope can be achieved through this event?

- Community driven organised provision
- Hopefully more interaction between the community
- Clearer and greater understanding from people that actually live here and knowledge for myself of who to go to for what
- More community spirit and action to improve the community
- Changes for a better future, eg., electric charging station
- Lots of ASB in the town and what I would describe as low level crime make Gainsborough a safer proper place
- Improvements within the community
- Don't know yet
- Development of community led initiatives
- People can LISTEN to concerns
- Community voices heard, residents given an opportunity to voice their opinion where they wouldn't normally. Inclusive, collective, groups that had an opportunity to creative positive change for mutual gain - improve lifestyles
- Better community engagement
- People get to know each other and the needs that they have
- Find info on what's happening in this area make others aware of problems
- Identify areas of opportunity to effectively channel the support we have to offer
- Find out what's happening
- More understanding of issues and start to tackle them
- I don't know about 'violent' but drugs are a problem, also dog fouling / magic wands everywhere!