

Derbyshire Asset Based Learning Network



Derbyshire Asset Based Learning network is a group of people who have a passion for community work and asset-based approaches. The network was established in 2019 and is a network of people who connect, share and explore over their work. There are currently over 100 members (organisations and residents) representing over 80 different organisations

The network convenes on average **every 3 months** with connections and work being established between meetings.

Those who attend network meetings decide what they want to talk about based on what is important to them, there is always time with to share what is going on and to explore what we are learning.



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HOW ARE WE FEELING RIGHT NOW?

How much fuel is in the tank?

100 – full throttle raring to go
1 – empty tank about to break down, in need of recovery

One word to describe what has our attention right now?



HOW WE SPENT OUR TIME on 5th August 2020.

The first meeting since COVID

Introduction – Getting to know who is on the call

Sharing experiences (looking back and thinking about the future)

What has changed since COVID

What has been strong during COVID that we can build on

Discussing what was important to us

- ▶ Resident voice – ensuring it is heard particularly when usual communication and connections have changed
- ▶ Making the most of the energy /momentum for community led work right now
- ▶ Volunteering – maintaining numbers ahead of winter

Parting Gift to the group

What follows is a summary of the work we did together, it is just a snapshot.

 **We are inviting people to add to and continue the discussion @DerbyshireABLN**



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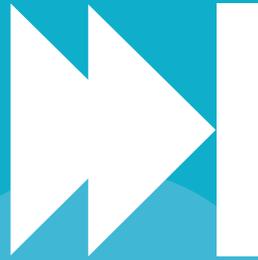


LOOKING BACK

what changes have you noticed?

- ▶ The **perception of volunteering** has changed - more about neighbours helping each other
- ▶ It feels like the **pace has accelerated**
- ▶ Individuals stepping up and going for it!
- ▶ Shift in Council objectives
- ▶ Challenging at times, **amazed with community response.** Things taking longer to do. Hope to continue more good partnership working in the future
- ▶ Understanding communication preferences is really important - how do people like to connect and know what's happening
- ▶ Change of job roles for some - redeployed to Community Support Teams, etc.
- ▶ Table tennis is popular during social distancing
- ▶ **Resilience is actually a thing!**
- ▶ The **importance of volunteering,** how reliant as a nation we are on the good will of volunteering.
- ▶ **1 or 2 people coming together starts things off** , creates momentum
- ▶ Generally experienced improved and **more trusted relationships.** We want to gather more insight as to whether PA behaviours are less in our priority communities.
- ▶ **Community is a thing** and people actually do want it. However there is a momentum that may not be sustainable
- ▶ **Working at pace** . Includes everyone from individuals, groups and organisations
- ▶ **Community groups didn't wait for permission** , they saw a problem and stepped in to work together. There was nobody putting **red tape** in the way.
- ▶ How wonderful it is to work differently and realise the importance of community but we fear the opportunity slipping away as the window may be limited timewise(?)
- ▶ More engagement with schools

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LOOKING FORWARD what strengths do we want to build on?

- ▶ Neighbourhood approaches = **working at all levels from street** and again to organisations
- ▶ **Keep enabling communities to lead**
- ▶ Protect the growth, **don't let statutory orgs take over!**
- ▶ Need to ensure statutory world **don't take over from the community** - still **enablers**. Need to work with the community and support the mutual aid groups/ listen to needs.
- ▶ We need to take this opportunity to **work together** on joined up themes and avoid duplication
- ▶ New **relationships across partners and communities, trust and credibility** with some public parts of councils, engaging and support the enthusiasm of communities **but not controlling**.
- ▶ Opportunity to **build on relationships and connections** - multi-agencies coming together - bring partners together around common goal
- ▶ **Support to volunteers**, co-production not go backwards. **continue to do things** not just talk about doing things
- ▶ Need to build confidence back within communities
- ▶ Genuine partnership working being led by community need
- ▶ Build on the **increased awareness of the value of community leadership**. Lean into communities and help them to reflect on what's been good, enable them to grow
- ▶ We spoke about the language and that we may have the same language in strategic circles that sound the same but mean different in communities
- ▶ I dared to say we need to go with gut feelings rather than old data
- ▶ Confidence is one of our main themes going forward
- ▶ Mindful that working within communities takes time and energy and an expectation that sometimes things go backwards and we need to learn from this.
- ▶ Reflecting on crisis response early on, moving back towards **reciprocal, equal relationships** as opposed to more transactional. Somebody calling for support could be somebody able to offer support at another time/in another way, and vice versa. **Need to make sure we help to join the dots but don't lead (or 'fix'!!)**

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Questions to help develop our work



- ▶ How do we align or connect to the partner energy in this work?
- ▶ What is our role in creating the space for people to reflect and discuss & how do we enable communities to do this for themselves?
- ▶ How to involve residents voice
- ▶ How do we align/connect the insight more closely to the partner energy
- ▶ How do we enable social connectedness conversation and learn from good neighbourhood approach/sharing practice across county/city
- ▶ How do we understand what is going on for children and young people, what is the role of young people in volunteering, how do we find out?
- ▶ What role have children and young people played in communities during COVID and what role can play moving forward?

WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO US



Topics where:

- 1) Is there an urgency in this work, a window of opportunity that may slip through our fingertips? What action could take to keep the momentum going
- 2) How do we ensure that residents' voices are heard and listened to, when more difficult to engage as communication is more remote at present
- 3) How can we help maintain the numbers of volunteers to change community and to support whatever may come this winter?

ACTIONS that we are all committed to



- ▶ Share stories that demonstrate the value of what's happened in communities over recent months
- ▶ Connect with others in this work
- ▶ Enable people to explore common ground - Common ground is Key
- ▶ Share insight from new connections and engaged energy but be careful not to leave behind previous relationships.
- ▶ As leaders enable others to work out what makes sense and to challenge things that don't
- ▶ If you see something that needs to change and you have that awareness, take responsibility to drive it forward and find your support to do that

Parting Gift

what people said about this meeting

- ▶ *Fantastic meeting lots of strong moving stories*
- ▶ *Positive people wanting to move in the same direction*
- ▶ *Felt a real sense of calm*
- ▶ *Really enjoyed the session today, loved learning from and sharing with you all!*
- ▶ *Brilliant energy appreciate all of your time!*
- ▶ *Sorry for arriving late – session still useful*
- ▶ *Great to experience common ground*
- ▶ *Confidence to challenge what does not make sense*
- ▶ *Great to reconnect*
- ▶ *Thank you for a positive couple of hours and to meet like minded people, its been a boost!*
- ▶ *Great to lean about the plans to build on strengths moving forward and how we can do this together*

Please continue to share and connect relevant stories and experiences on twitter [@derbyshireABLN](https://twitter.com/derbyshireABLN)

Future dates

Dates for future network meetings:

28th September 2 – 4pm

14th December 2- 4pm

29th March 2 – 4pm

[Click on the date to book on to the session](#)

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