

Community Services Committee 4th July 2022
ITEM 10. Community Response Efforts Evaluation
Report of the Senior Development Officer

The following document was created following the evaluation of the Town Council's Community Response Efforts from March 2020 – December 2021, against the 6 community outcomes which were agreed by this committee on 8th March 2021.

Members of the Community Response Team have included: Town Clerk's Secretary, Administration Officer, Senior Development Officer, Communications and Marketing Officer, Community & Grounds Administrator and the Volunteer Co-ordinator. This team has been utilised as and when required, and projects are overseen by the Deputy Town Clerk. Each member of the team was asked to evaluate the projects they were involved in, including:

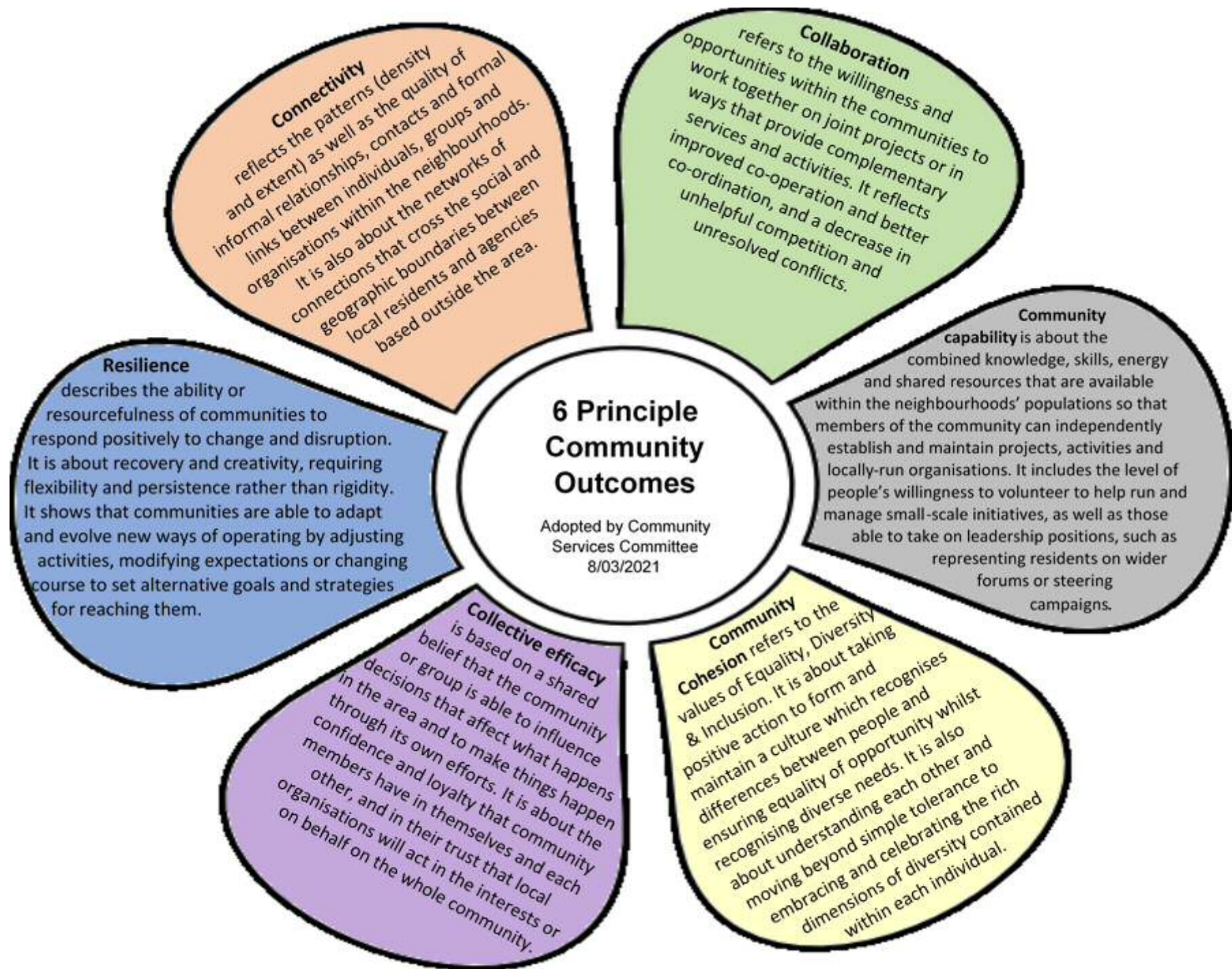
- Covid Response Efforts
- Anti-Racism Commitment
- Cleaner coastlines – curry and conversations
- Community Fridge

These responses were collated in the following document.

Members are required to:

To provide feedback, comments and note the evaluation.

10. Community Resilience Evaluation March 2020- December 2021



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Covid Response Efforts

Project started April 2020

Outcome	How outcome was met
Connectivity	<p>Worked with Helping People and NSC Together and ROC plus parish councils from start of pandemic in March 2020 to assist vulnerable people in society with shopping, prescriptions and general support, helped nearly 2,000 people over 15 months. This led to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked with Interculture on Allyship Training • Anti Racism meetings set up to continue TC directive • Worked with HLC, Food Bank, NSC, FareShare, Alliance Homes, Big Worle, Hubbub to set up a Food club to tackle food waste
Collaboration	<p>Collaboration as above between partner agencies, particularly NSC, Care Connect, Social services (Adult), HLC, Interculture, Alliance Homes, ROC etc. to promote partnership working through the pandemic, and to promote food sovereignty. Networks created allowed for cross project collaborations. Effort during this time enabled the development of other projects working with community partners e.g. food clubs, community fridge etc.</p>
Resilience	<p>Demonstrated by the number of people who wanted to give back. Miniature support groups were developed organically between neighbours helping neighbours, and volunteers building bonds with their community, after an initial period of reorganisation, the process flowed better and became more self sufficient. Work ebbed and flowed and adapted around each lockdown.</p>
Community capability	<p>Growth in volunteers throughout the project. Again evident in the development of new projects within the created community networks e.g. food clubs, community fridge</p>
Collective efficacy	<p>Again evident in the development of new projects within the created community networks e.g. food clubs, community fridge. The food clubs especially use a model by where the community itself is involved in the development, to ensure the club is tailored to community needs</p>
Community Cohesion	<p>Project work was completed inclusive, opportunities for anyone who wanted to be a volunteer, and support available for anyone who wanted help. Helped us as staff to better understand the needs of the community, and identify which parts of the community require the most support. Lots of work with wards/postcodes demonstrated the diverse needs of the community, across all walks of life.</p>

10. Community Resilience Evaluation March 2020- December 2021

Anti-Racism Commitment

Project Started November 2020

Outcome	How outcome was met
Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 organisations are invited to anti-racism monthly meetings. This includes: BME Network, Multicultural friendship association, Black Lives Matter, Polish Community, North Somerset Council, VANS, Citizens Advice, SARI etc. • 80 people from 27 organisations across North Somerset attended the training by Dawn Jarvis on 'The effects of racism on mental health'. With 642 online views • Support and funding of 'Black history Month'. 6 free events during October with an audience of over 500 people • Training given to Town Council staff and councillors • Polish community have a volunteer to go with them into schools for meetings with teachers • Organised free cakes from Revo to be given to volunteers from VANS as a thank you for 'Jabs army'.
Collaboration	<p>Collaboration between Weston Museum, Weston Town Council communications and the BME network for the Queens award and Black History Month.</p>
Resilience	<p>The anti-racism working group is ever evolving as we learn more about the needs of the community. it started as staff and councillors from WSMTC. It was then recognised that we needed to get the community involved. After a couple of months of meetings facilitated by WSMTC, it was felt that a member of the community should chair the meetings, to ensure the initiative is led by the community.</p>
Community capability	<p>Black history month Weston-super-Mare will be Black History Month North Somerset 2022</p> <p>The working group promotes a share of knowledge and cross collaboration in order to meet our aims. Anyone can get involved, with groups and individuals attending meetings. Members have worked together to facilitate projects. E.g. Citizens advice have an annual project by where they bring awareness to the number of women facing domestic abuse. the working group was asked for support to ensure that this included raising awareness of the number of women facing abuse from different ethnic groups.</p>
Collective efficacy	<p>The anti-racism working group discuss issues faced by the community in order to find the best solutions. This share of information ensures the community is supported by the organisations and officers who are best placed to help. e.g. a member raised an issue concerning bullying and issues in schools which are exacerbated by race. This member was put in contact with Cllr Gibbons who is the Executive Member for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning and the Group Leader of North Somerset Councillors. The working group discussed the possibility of volunteer translator services in order to support families in schools.</p>

10. Community Resilience Evaluation March 2020- December 2021

Outcome	How outcome was met
Community Cohesion	<p>Community cohesion is the main aim of the anti-racism working group, hoping to promote inclusivity. However, the challenge is to make sure all groups have an equal voice when some voices are more confident than others.</p> <p>Distinctions have been made between inclusivity (anyone is <i>able</i> to get involved) and active engagement (encouraging people from <i>all</i> walks of life to get involved).</p> <p>The activities of the group aim to celebrate diversity, as well as promote tolerance.</p>

Coastlines - Curry and Conversations

Project Started October 2021

Outcome	How outcome was met
Connectivity	<p>Plastic-free WSM / Weston Chamber of Commerce have received grant funding from the Quartet Community Foundation Megawatt Community Energy Fund to host a series of six FREE Curry & Conversation workshops over the next few months to raise awareness of climate change and learn how we can all start to take small steps now to make a difference for the future of the next generations.</p> <p>We can all learn together how to measure and reduce our own carbon emissions so please join us on this important journey to net zero by 2030.</p> <p>These lunchtime sessions will be led by Naseem Talukdar of local charity Plastic Pollution Awareness & Action Projects and the free curry lunch will be provided by Chutneys Takeaway.</p> <p>We will be covering plastic pollution, recycling, food waste, nature-based solutions, fast fashion, the circular economy, energy, transport and carbon footprints amongst other things.</p> <p>WSMTC created a promotional video for Debbie Apted for these events.</p>

10. Community Resilience Evaluation March 2020- December 2021

Community Fridge

Project Started July 2020

Outcome	How outcome was met
Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project created as a result of networks created during Covid response work. Using working relationships created with a variety of organisations. • Geographic boundaries – have had support from Frome and Pill on the community fridge model. Provided advice on best practise and lessons learned. Have worked with FareShare South West, FoodShare and other regional organisations to sources food. • The community fridge has generated a large amount of positive comments on social media. • It's hoped that the publicity of the Fridge has created footfall into the Sovereign centre benefiting other businesses. • The meetings with 'All for healthy living' and 'Helping people' have felt like an extension to the Town Council team. • The work with community fridge has created great publicity for the Town Councils including endorsement video.
Collaboration	<p>This project brings together all different sectors of the community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Government – WSMTC – enabler. NSC – provision of location • Community group – FAHLC – running the project • Local shops – providing the food for redistribution. • Community – volunteers – day to day operations. “customers” – taking the food. <p>All of the above necessary for the project to run smoothly</p>
Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When one community group was unable to support the project (something which was required in order for the project to go ahead), we were able to bring in one of our other community partners. The project adapted over 3 iterations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ June 2020 – October 2020 – outdoor community fridge feasibility ○ January 2021 – June 2021 – indoor community fridge working with ROC ○ July 2021 – Current – indoor community fridge working with FAHLC • We recognise there is a reliance on Volunteers to carry out this project. It quite simply wouldn't be able to open or be stocked without them and the volunteer response we have had has been amazing.
Community capability	<p>Were able to quickly find volunteers for the final iteration of the project in time for the opening of the fridge. The location in the SC has been good for word of mouth. The public is supporting the project by telling people able to fridge. Lots of unofficial referrals.</p>

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Outcome	How outcome was met
Collective efficacy	It is hoped that the project will eventually be self sufficient and be handed back to the community. The support of the community will be essential for this. Not at this stage yet, will need to be developed over a couple of years.
Community Cohesion	Lots of education opportunities. Whilst the main aim of the project is food waste, lots of conversations with the public have centred around need, with people recognising that their need is not as great as others.