

Placemaking and community development with ACE (Action in Caerau and Ely).

How people in West Cardiff have built life-changing responses to local challenges by telling a different story about their community - one in which they are active participants, not problems needing solving!

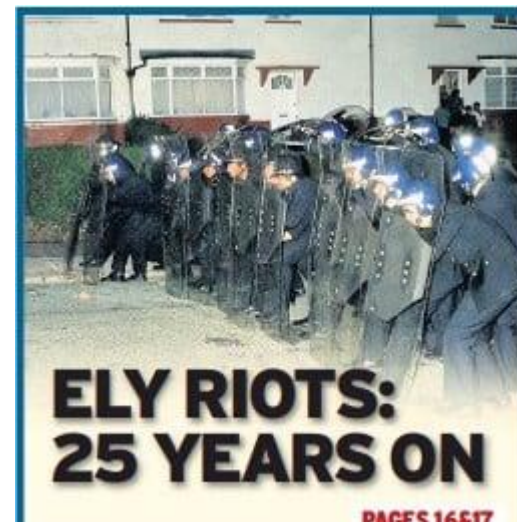
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DAVE HORTON



Introducing Ely & Caerau

- Population 26,000
- Built after first and second world wars
- Lost local manufacturing industry
- 14% of economically active people are unemployed
- Poor quality employment
- Low income
- Poor health
- Impact of Covid and cost of living increase
- Mental health
- Story and stigma
- High levels of social capital and strong basis of community development
- Significant local heritage



An introduction to



- A local charity/company serving West Cardiff
- Developed through the Welsh Government Communities First programme
- Asset Based Community Development and co-production
- 'Our community is not a problem that needs solving'
- Doing things *with* people, not *to* or *for* people
- Everyone has something to contribute
- Working with the most vulnerable community members as co-deliverers (particular challenges)
- Are these the underpinning values for effective placemaking? We think so!
- Local people are participants, volunteers, staff, trustees and managers
- Rally people around a vision, represent local interests, oversee regeneration



ACE Projects

- Our Place: Dusty Forge – a DIY home for community action!
- Community support
- Your Local Pantry
- Dusty Community Shop
- Dusty Shed
- Benthyg Library of Things
- Dusty Repair Cafe
- Dusty Community Garden
- ACE Arts
- CAER Heritage Project
- Yourspace (social prescribing)
- ACE Training



Asset Based Community Development (ABCD)

Asset Based Community Development builds on the assets that are found in the community and mobilizes individuals, associations, and institutions to come together to realise and develop their strengths. This makes it different to a Deficit Based approach that focuses on identifying and servicing needs.

Each community has a unique set of skills and capacities it can channel for community development.

- Individuals – Everyone has assets and gifts
- Associations – People discover each other's gifts (small informal groups)
- Institutions – People organized around assets
- Place based assets – People live here for a reason
- Connections – Individuals connect into a community (role of Connectors and social capital)

*Working with what's strong not what's wrong
The key question is 'what can you contribute?'*

Nurture Development www.nurturedevelopment.org

What are our assets?

Asset – a useful or valuable thing or person



- Our social networks and relationships
- Our skills, knowledge and experience
- Our organisation
- Our heritage
- Our culture
- Buildings
- Land
- Equipment
- Time



project example

CAER Heritage

- Caerau hillfort - Local heritage as a crucial asset
- Partnership with Cardiff University – institutional assets
- Co-production of high quality research with local people – personal assets
- A six-year old's story! - Co-creating a different story
- 'Outcomes' – Research, education, wellbeing, community action
- Transformation of place - Development of heritage centre, heritage themed play area, walking trails and interpretation
- Shared ownership and responsibility for our history, land, buildings
- Tourism, enterprise and community led regeneration



Asset based/strength based tools

- Asset maps (used for people and places) – you've already done one!
- Appreciative inquiry
- Most Significant Change (evaluation and research)
- Time banking
- Community organising



The impact of place-making through asset based community development

- Increased social capital (bonding, bridging and linking types)
- An arena where different people and views have to co-exist – we learn to live with each other!
- Release and nurture of dormant skills, knowledge and experience
- New creative responses to old problems
- Development of neglected but important physical assets
- A new community narrative and pride that challenges stigma and prejudice
- Improved confidence and mental health and increased participation
- A reconnection between every day experience and political decision making
- Hope and a sense that things can change
- Personal and community transformation

A personal story of change – Billy's story



Lessons for placemaking

- Every place, and therefore every approach, is unique
- It's all about relationships and connections
- Professionals might need to 'move into the neighbourhood'!
- The role of story is central
- The role of history is central
- Local people's own perspectives and actions should be 'up front'

Challenges and opportunities

- We need new, embedded, community led approaches to research and evaluation
- Negotiating the role of professionals alongside community members
- How can we sustain the work?

dusty forge



***THANK YOU
DIOLCH YN FAWR***