

Group 3 - Three Mills

Speaker Carousel

Notes

Scroll to speaker to box and make a summary of key points that come up, for participants to use as prompts for later activities

Speaker list

1. **Rob Hopkins** - Founder & Director Transition Towns
2. **Prof Kate Jones** - Chair of Ecology and Biodiversity, UCL
3. **Ed Rosen** - Director and GP, Food Coop
4. **Dr Duncan Wilson** - Professor of Connected Environments and **Leah Lovett**, Artist, Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis
5. **Victoria Bradford-Keegan** - Delivery Director, National Trust, Future Parks Accelerator
6. **Usman Haque** – Umbrellium

Speaker 1 Break out conversation

Rob Hopkins

How do we cultivate longing for a low carbon future - this should be our job.

- Through visuals, arts etc to paint and re-imagine the future.

What can communities do with the resources we have?

- Transition groups
- Local currencies - money circulates locally and grows the economy there.
- Exchange of ideas at a faster rate
- Use of local experts
- Recycling and reusing
- Power to convene - bringing people together.
- Use of the what if question.
- Think and do - community imaging cafe and share stories

The future must enter into you long before it happens.

‘Yes but’ kills of ideas, have a culture of ‘Yes and’

Speaker 2 Break out conversation

Prof Kate Jones

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Speaker 3 Break out conversation

Ed Rosen

Lambeth GP food corp - green spaces in GP surgeries

Lambeth is affected by health inequalities, deprivation etc.

- Started with building gardens with GPs even with limited space
- Create a network of GPs building gardens - whole borough initiative
- The gardens are open to people who need safe spaces especially where parks are not safe
- Carters for elderly patients
- Vegetables grown are sold to NHS staff at the canteen at Kings college hospital - food supply system to the NHS grown by the patients in GP surgeries.
- Need for residents to volunteer in helping GPs organise and facilitate
- Newham is slightly behind on the initiative and the council needs to raise the resources to be matched by the NHS to make this work.

Q. How is it funded and do you sustain it?

A. Sustained by being a cooperative and members ensuring the initiative is kept on the road. Funding has been an ongoing challenge and some gardens are funded directly by the GPs and hospitals and we constantly ask for help from charities, crowdfunding, grants etc.

Q. How have you found engaging GPs and doctors?

A. You find your allies - these are the people who help and lead the initiative. Go with where the passion and energy is.

Q. Would you give the vegetables you grow to people in the hospital?

A. Initially the patients took it away and the surplus was let at the GPs -first couple of years.

However, one of the aims of the project was to use locally grown produce in the hospitals and supply the NHS and as such we formed a relationship with King's college hospital to supply their canteen with our produce.

Speakers 4 Break out conversation

Dr Duncan Wilson and Leah Lovett

Use of technology- at least the last 10 years in London

- Shazam for bats - listening devices specific for bats to indicate how bio-diverse an area is. Uses the park Wi-fi as well as other low powered
- Soil moisture sensors in allotments - to open conversations about growing conditions in different areas.
- Air quality monitors - 100 sites -impact of school runs creating spikes in the morning

- Tales of the park - Pushing out information using interactive gnomes with bluetooth tech
- Listening wood - Park warders wanted visitors to understand tree conservation
- Virtual reality/augmented reality portholes for environmental and youth stories- a way to tell some of the local history/stories especially to young people.

How do we educate the public that they can use this?
 What if we all use QR codes
 what if web pages could link to augmented portals

Speaker 5 Break out conversation

Victoria Bradford-Keegan

Access to green spaces in Newham

It is patchy depending on where you live. 47% of residents do not have access to green spaces in Newham.

How to rethink access:

- It has got to be about people. Putting people at the heart
- Integration of green spaces - bringing the park to your door, so that it is part of people's everyday life - walk to school, work etc involves passing by green spaces.
- Creation of street parks where people can just stop and talk, grow things etc. Encourages people to work more, regulate temperatures, and local businesses can use these.
- Need to be playful for all.
- It needs to be multifunctional - planting improves biodiversity.
- Use of aerial walkways.
- How does water play a role in both green and blue spaces.
- Small micro green spaces where people live.

Observations: Industrial shopping areas in Becton - What if we green that area?

What if car parks had a lot more greenery?

There are a number of factories around the river Thames and it is very grey and industrialized but still attracts ducks - What if this area became more welcoming/aesthetically pleasing to people and animals too?

What if more people were encouraged to use green spaces more as opposed to having concrete driveways?

Speaker 6 Break out conversation

Usman Haque

Wild cities

Wilding is about embracing the whole ecosystem - microbes and all.

Reintroducing species that have gone extinct in cities is hard. It is unlikely we can get full consensus on what the green spaces are used for. Different communities think differently about green spaces.

Wilding requires a diverse and democratic approach/framework. We must embrace a holistic view of our relationship with our environment.

To think about:

- Informal green spaces - unused areas that we are not even sure who owns or uses..could i use that strip as an allotment
- Think more specifically about psychological benefits of nature - bird song
- Idea of citizenship and personhood for green spaces - giving the environment more legal rights to protect it.

Unkempt places may look unattractive but think about who in the environment is using that space - birds, butterflies etc and if we rethink such spaces we could use them differently.

Living walls- great when they are passive but unfortunately they tend to become dependent on pumps and elaborate irrigation systems. Careful thinking around this is needed.

Q. Businesses and corporations have more rights. Why is it okay to give rights to corporations and not animals that are part of our ecosystem?

A. Animals/trees have no one to speak for them. There is no legal framework in place. An interesting proposition to think about.

OVERALL NOTES

PARKING LOT (anything else that is important, but for later/another day)

G3 - Exploring the What if, Yes and following Rob's talk.

Q. Who puts together the resources to start these initiatives and sustains?

A. Go with those willing.

Q. How do they advertise the work they are doing?

A. What if everybody was able to see information of all these initiatives and projects.

What if Newham council was able to do that and reinvest back

We approach the council and discuss our ideas with them - grow vegetables and have a farm shop. Yes and - involve our families.

What if Newham council helped the residents?

DLR can be delayed - What if we had some lovely green areas in the stations/platforms to explore as residents wait for trains. Yes and - Give consent for that to happen and marshal committed members and just do it. Needs to be an incentive for existing freeholders to create more green spaces.

What if the planning team incentivised landowners and developers to care?

Newham has started to pedestrianise streets but they need to get to the Yes and - really think of how to green those streets not just the few planters currently in place.

