

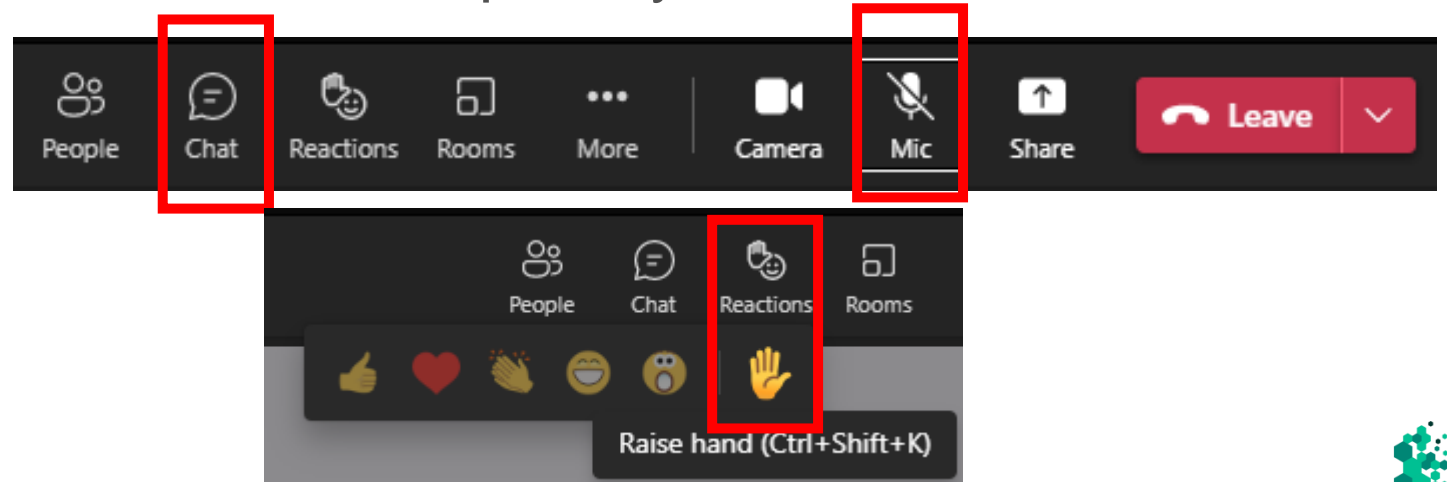
West Midlands Greener Together Forum

28th June 2022



Housekeeping

- If joining online, please stay on mute when in the main room
- Please respect all opinions and allow opportunity for all to speak when in the breakout rooms and to ask questions. This is our first hybrid meeting and want to ensure all those joining online, and those in-person, feel part of the meeting
- To ask questions online, please write in the chat box or raise your hand to ask the question. If in person, please raise your hands
- No scheduled breaks but please feel free to step away when needed



Forum logistics reminder

Purpose

Bring together representatives of the WMCA, with all those across the region who are committed to cutting carbon emissions and enhancing the natural environment to discuss, collaborate and debate different initiatives.

Space for EVERYONE to update one another about their activities to achieve net zero.

Membership

Open to everyone, with no limit to the number of members. Ensure that voices within the Forum are balanced and **everyone gets the opportunity to raise their ideas and concerns**.

Format

- Meetings held **four times a year** for 2 hours between 6-8pm
- Hybrid meeting approach with in-person and online joining options
- Meeting will move around the WMCA area
- WMCA will provide administrative support, with the **agenda open for anyone to bring relevant items to the meeting**

Roles and Responsibilities

- **All to contribute** information, specialist knowledge, expertise, ideas and learning to drive forward discussion and decision-making; members are there to collaborate rather than represent the interests of their own organisation
- Other specific roles and responsibilities to be discussed as the Forum evolves e.g. co-convenor roles
- To **contribute to the agenda setting** for each meeting

Principles and Ground rules

- Participants will adopt a partnership ethos that stresses **inclusivity, openness, and transparency** in its deliberations, and which drives positive action and improvement as a result of its decisions.
- Every meeting will be engaging, strategic, positive, and focussed on achieving clear outcomes.
- If conflicts of interest occur, participants will be open and honest in order to resolve any issues.
- Agendas will be circulated a week in advance of the meeting with action points showing the individuals/organisations responsible will be circulated within a week of the meeting.

Forum logistics questions discussed previously

Raised in last meeting	Actions taken
Commitment to rotating the Forum around each Local Authority in the West Midlands Combined Authority and meetings should be hybrid.	The Forum is committed to moving around the region to ensure it remains accessible to all. The Forum shall be hosted in-person and online via Microsoft Teams.
Rolling co-convenor to involve a range of people and interests	Each Forum shall have a co-convenor with specialist topic knowledge to ensure questions asked by Forum members are answered accurately
Meetings should be more than 4 times a year to discuss important topics – should be 6-8 meetings a year	Due to limited capacity, the WMCA are unable to organise more than four sessions per year . However, we are committed to ensuring the meetings are informative and useful for all involved. The Terms of Reference shall be reviewed twice a year and updated when needed .
Meetings to start later in the evening from 7-9pm	This was suggested in one of the breakout rooms and we will continue to raise the logistics of the meetings to ensure everyone is happy with how the Forum operates and they remain accessible for all to join and interact with.
Attendees should feel ownership of the Forum and need to make sure there are action points	We met with a small agenda setting group for today's Forum and if you would like to help shape the next Forum meeting, please email wmgreenertogether@wmca.org.uk or let us know today. Space has been left in today's agenda for actions we can all take forward to ensure the conversations continue .
Thought needs to go into how this group feeds into the WMCA Environment and Energy Board and how to influence policy makers	The board provide strategic oversight for the WMCA's work and briefing notes from each Forum shall be presented to the board for discussion.
Newsletter/ bulletin to be shared with updates, funding opportunities, project updates	We have now started a monthly Energy and Environment newsletter to share our work. A link to sign up to this was shared after the previous Forum and shall be circulated again after today.
WMCA have a voice to government and Forum should focus on topics attendees want to lobby for to prevent this turning into similar Forums	We are currently working on a trail blazer devolution deal, to provide more decision-making powers to the West Midlands. As part of this, we are writing several papers, with net zero being a key focus and discussion had within the Forum can help shape these.
Networking opportunities and sharing of best practice at each meeting	Each in-person meeting shall have networking time included . Those attending online can share contact details with each other and if you would like to make a connection, please email wmgreenertogether@wmca.org.uk and we will send your contact details onto the person for them to contact you.

Tree & Hedge planting discussions

Discussions in breakout rooms;

- Difficulty surrounding land, access and regulations – scope for a programme to bring organisations together to submit planting programme.
 - WMCA Environment Team have submitted a bid into the Woodland Trusts' Emergency Tree Fund to create a West Midlands Forest Partnership. The Partnership would aim to create a regional focus to tree and hedge planting and to complete an i-tree assessment of current tree stock, similar to the assessment in the Black Country. We should know the outcome soon and would look to increase team capacity to lead on this work.
- Tools libraries for the community to borrow tools to plant trees
 - The WMCA Environment Team will have a conversation with the Active Wellbeing Society who have several '[Share Shacks](#)' in Birmingham and North Solihull. The WMCA will look into including community reuse hub as part of our circular economy work, more information on our circular economy routemap can be found [here](#).
- Issue with tree nurseries keeping up with supply and need to set up local tree nurseries to be more self sufficient
 - In the WMCA Natural Environment Plan we have committed to creating a West Midlands tree nursery and will work with partners to progress this. More information on our Natural Environment Plan can be found on our website [here](#).
- How can we work with bigger landowners, who can make a bigger difference than any small group could?
 - In the WMCA Natural Environment Plan we have committed to hosting a regional landowners summit to promote collaboration and bring forward land for trees and other biodiversity projects.

Areas for the Forum to progress;

- Funding available for tree planting but more support needed for street trees and for ongoing management
- Emphasis needs to be on protecting existing trees, especially with new developments and protecting against vandalism
- Need targets and incentives for natural regeneration
- Knowledge sharing and capacity building for community groups, councils and the general public on best practice for improving biodiversity, planting street trees, growing trees from seed, restoration of hedgerows and knowledge of existing habitats

Follow up information

All slides and notes from Forum meetings shall be shared on the West Midlands Greener Together webpage on the WMCA website.

A briefing note has been developed with answers to questions as well sharing information and links requested in the previous meeting. This shall be shared via email after today's session and will be available to download from the website.

1.0 Introduction

This note outlines discussions had at the first West Midlands Greener Together Forum on the 31st of March 2022, where the topic discussed was regional tree planting and Forum logistics.

Please see current Forum Terms of Reference [here](#).

2.0 Forum Logistics

2.1 Future potential topics to be discussed at the Forum;

- Retrofitting homes
- Transport
- Waste disposal
- Local energy initiatives
- Brownfield land

Through a small agenda setting group with Forum members, Retrofit has been chosen as the second Forum topic for the 28th of June 2022 meeting.

2.2 Commitment to rotating the Forum around each Local Authority in the West Midlands Combined Authority and meetings should be hybrid.

- The Forum is committed to moving around the region to ensure it remains accessible to all. The second Forum meeting shall be hosted in an accessible venue in Birmingham City Centre – The Warehouse Friends of the Earth Building (B5 5TH). The Forum shall be hosted in-person and online via Microsoft Teams.

2.3 The Forum should start later in the evening 7-9pm and be more than four times a year

- This was suggested in one of the breakout rooms and we will continue to raise the logistics of the meetings to ensure everyone is happy with how the Forum operates and they remain accessible for all to join and interact with.
- Due to limited capacity, the WMCA are unable to organise more than four sessions per year. However, we are committed to ensuring the meetings are informative and useful for all involved. The Terms of Reference shall be reviewed twice a year and updated when needed.

2.4 Thought needs to go into how the Forum discussions feed into the WMCA Environment and Energy Board meetings

- The Environment and Energy Board meetings are held every quarter and are chaired by Councillor Ian Courts, Leader of Solihull Council who is the Portfolio Holder for Energy and Environment. Councillors from Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, Wolverhampton City Council, Sandwell Council, Walsall Council, Birmingham City Council and Coventry City Council, who are portfolio holders for Energy and Environment within their councils also attend. [Please see here](#) current members and past papers. The board provide strategic oversight for the WMCA's work and briefing notes from each Forum shall be presented to the board for discussion.

2.5 A newsletter or bulletin needs to be shared with updates, funding opportunities and project updates

- We have created a monthly Energy and Environment newsletters to share our work. You can register to receive these newsletters via this link.

3.0 Regional tree planting

Agenda

17:30pm -18:00pm - Networking for those who have attend in person

18:00pm - 18:15pm – Online session begins with recap of last session and updates

18:15pm - 18:25pm - Energy Capital team from the West Midlands Combined Authority

18:25pm – 18:35pm - Phil Beardmore from Energy Confidence

18:35pm – 18:40pm – Rachel Jones from Act on Energy

18:40pm – 18:50pm – Imandeep Khan from Civic Square

18:50pm - 19:10pm - Break out rooms to discuss and collate questions

19:10pm - 19:40pm - Plenary on regional retrofit ambitions

19:40pm - 19:50pm - Wrap up and actions to take forward

19:50pm - 20:00pm - Community updates from Forum members

Presentations



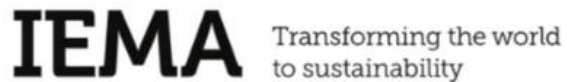
West Midlands
Combined Authority



WEST MIDLANDS
Greener Together

Helping you to develop, implement and monitor decarbonisation strategies

WMCA Greener Together Forum



ENERGY *confidence*
with PHIL BEARDMORE

I work with:

- Small businesses
- Public bodies
- Cooperatives
- Non-profits
- Places of worship
- Place-based approaches with local communities
- Private householders



ENERGY *confidence*
with **PHIL BEARDMORE**

JERICHO's Carbon Reduction Plan

This month, some of our senior managers attended a workshop led by Phil Beardmore from [Energy Confidence](#) to kick off a 2 year project to review, develop and implement JERICHO's new carbon reduction plan.

We looked at existing scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, as well defining success factors and potential barriers to change.

We also enjoyed a very tasty vegetarian lunch made entirely from surplus food by [ChangeKitchen](#).



Public bodies - WMCA

- Bid manager for Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund bid 2021 - £20m project value
- Consortium building
- Technical support to local authorities and housing associations
- Helping local authorities and housing associations make the business case internally for match funding
- Helping George Simms and the WMCA team to deliver the project



ENERGY *confidence*
with **PHIL BEARDMORE**

Places of worship

- Helping them to understand their environmental impact and prioritise which actions will make a difference
- Working on tackling the organisational barriers that have prevented them from making progress
- Whole-building approach rather than a measures-based approach



ENERGY *confidence*
with **PHIL BEARDMORE**

Footsteps - Birmingham Council of Faiths

- Helping faith groups in Birmingham to develop energy saving strategies
- £50 returnable commitment fee
- Limited places left
- Apply here - <https://footstepsbcf.org.uk/project4f/>



ENERGY *confidence*
with **PHIL BEARDMORE**

Link Road - a place-based approach to retrofit



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Contact

www.energyconfidence.co.uk

phil.beardmore@energyconfidence.co.uk

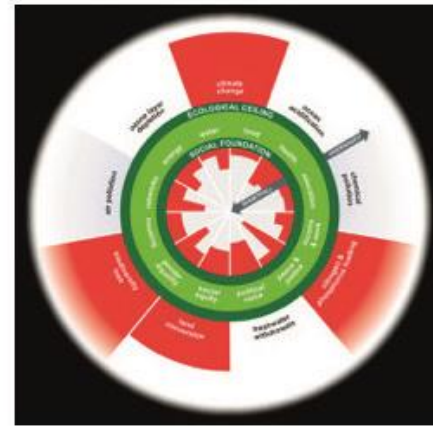


ENERGY confidence
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CIVIC SQUARE



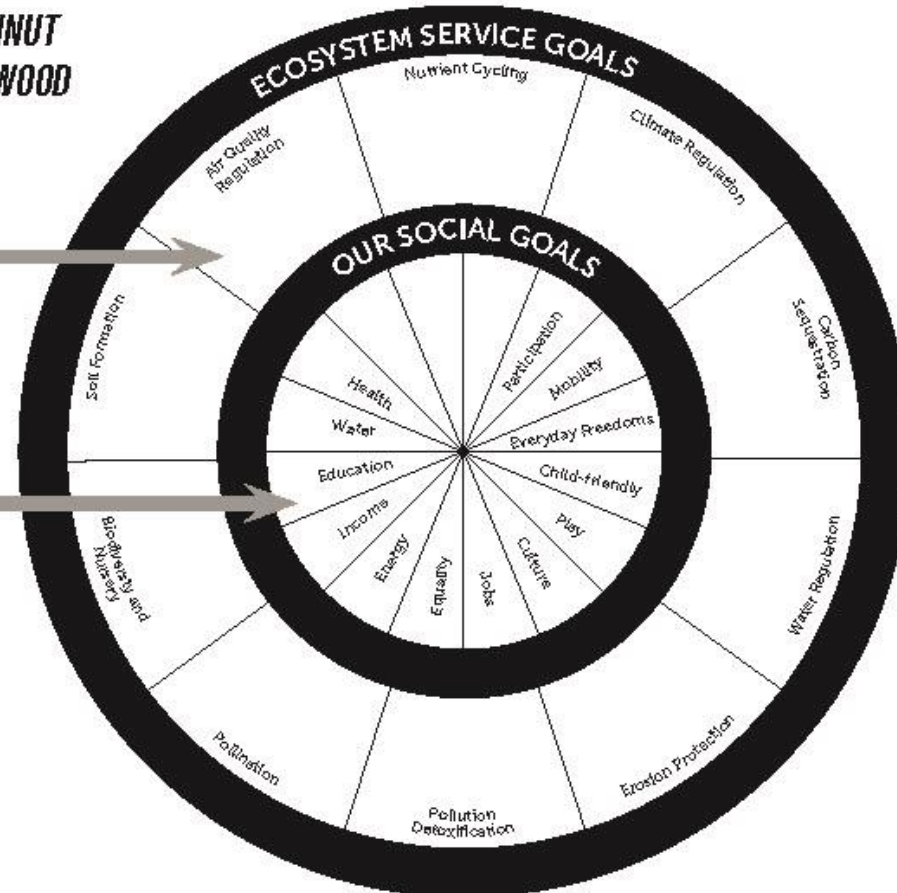
EXAMPLE DOUGHNUT MODELS BY KATE RAWORTH



NEIGHBOURHOOD DOUGHNUT FOR PORT LOOP & LADYWOOD

To be developed through ecological study of the place

To be co-created with local citizens





Claire Spencer
@thedancingflea

Replying to @louise4change @ImmyKaur and 5 others

Hear hear - my brain is buzzing with ideas (and loops) after a wonderful day



Imandeep Kaur @ImmyK... · 08/01/2019

This evening, @KateRaworth is taking us all on a journey about what does Doughnut Economics mean for places like ours & for @TheCivicSquare?



3 comments, 3 retweets, 12 likes

Show this thread



Tony Colville @tony.colvi · 09/01/2019





Claire Spencer
@thedancingflea

Replying to @louise4change @ImmyKaur and 5 others

Hear hear - my brain is buzzing with ideas (and loops) after a wonderful day of collaborative thought and challenge. So keen to help make it happen - a place that enables people to create and share wealth. As @KateRaworth said, practise first, theorise later!



22:06 · 08/01/2019 · Twitter for Android



Imandeep Kaur @ImmyK... · 08/01/2019
This evening, @KateRaworth all on a journey about what do Economics mean for places like @TheCivicSquare?



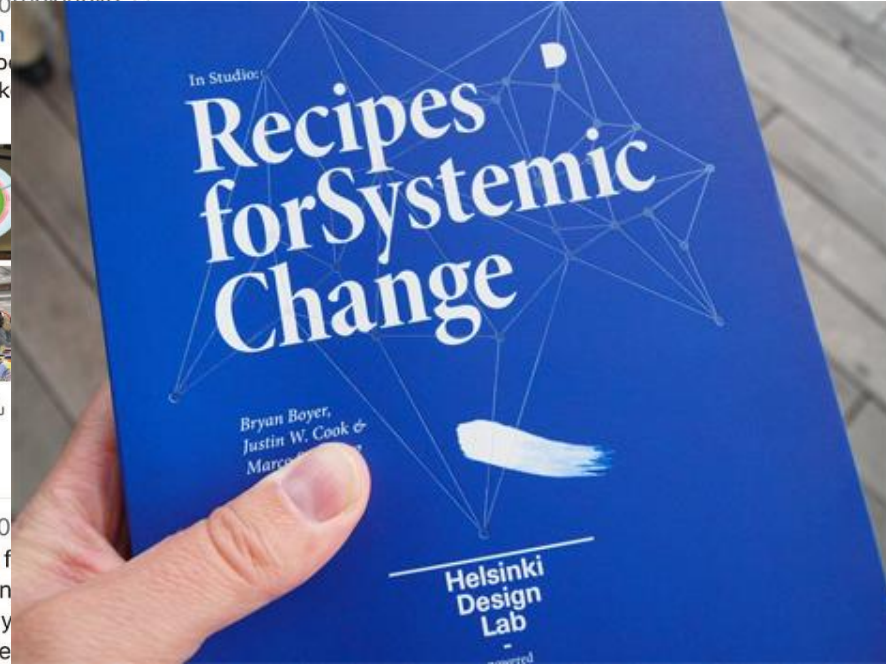
3 comments · 3 retweets · 12 likes
Show this thread



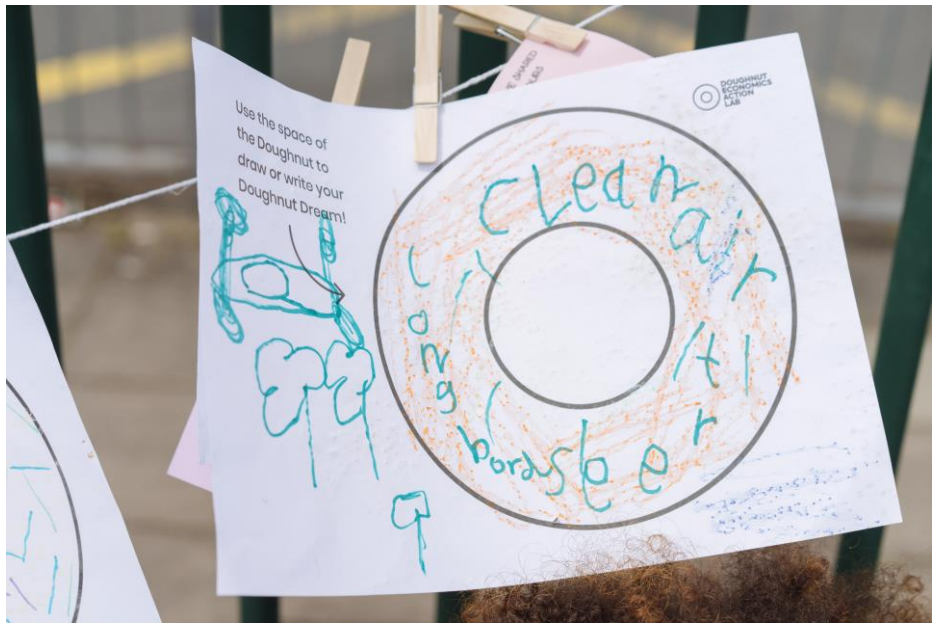
Tony Colville @tony_colvi... · 08/01/2019
THANK YOU @KateRaworth for mind blowing and mind opening @ImpactHubBrum and thank you kinda role models - the people @andyreevo @ImmyKaur thank you for including me in tonight's event. Your journey gives me hope. The donut makes me hungry FOR THE WIN!



1 comment · 2 retweets · 14 likes











Ladywood Energy Collective

A neighbourhood
climate initiative.



In Birmingham we need to retrofit two out of every three homes by 2041*.



CIVIC SQUARE

Jul 15, 2021 · 13 min read · Listen



Credit: CIVIC SQUARE + EAT MAKE PLAY, Neighbourhood Grow Room Construction — Ladywood, Birmingham

Financing Sustainability Transitions: In Search of a New, Civic-led Orthodoxy

Finance at the Climate Crossroads

Since the signing of the [UNFCCC's Paris Agreement](#) in 2015, **\$3.8 trillion** has been invested in fossil fuels, and much of the money set aside to 'build back better' will not address climate change. The role of finance in both the causes of climate breakdown and how we pull our societies back from the brink is a crucial and hot topic that many individuals and organisations pursuing a low-carbon, climate-resilient, just, and inclusive future are grappling with.



<https://medium.com/civicsquare/financing-sustainability-transitions-in-search-of-a-new-civic-led-orthod>

We think there are four key ingredients.

01 Hyper-local engagement and ownership

Addressing low levels of trust and weak mobilisation of residents to act / lead their local transitions through street-scale 'civic associations' with collective imagining and shared decision-making mechanisms.

02 Neighbourhood Retrofit agency

Addressing issues of credibility, compliance & capitalisation through neighbourhood-scale 'transition entities' with asset ownership and service delivery capacity.

03 City region scale spiral

Addressing historic power imbalances through city-scale capital funds designed to spiral investment capacity downwards to build community wealth and local economic empowerment.

04 National-scale open infrastructure

Addressing scaling barriers through explicit proliferation infrastructure including legal, procurement, democratic templates & protocols as well as platforms.

Our current model of retrofitting isn't working

01

Reliant on the household or govt grants to pay

02

Lack of trust in contractors

03

Temporary and insecure workforce

04

Every home (and person) is different making design bespoke & expensive

05

Funding and (re)training are disjointed and short term

06

Disruptive and unpredictable

07

Single measures rather than whole-house

08

Little focus on user journey and customer service

Arguments for collective area-based approaches

01

Local communities have better understanding of needs and wants (ref PWC)

02

These projects have higher take up and follow through rates

03

Focus can be targeted at streets and neighbourhoods that still meet general criteria

04

Greater efficiency of retrofit assessments and coordination

05

Greater efficiency of retrofit works

06

Greater potential for mutual support, local volunteering etc.

07

Greater and wider benefits achieved

08

Can include collective assets (e.g. streetscape, local parks etc.) where individual approaches can't

09

Greater scope for local market making (eg. energy clubs)

Transformational impact

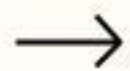
	Current approach (via ECO, LADs etc.)	Neighbourhood Transition approach
Primary Objective	Efficient installation of measures	Ongoing outcomes for residents
Financing	One-off grants	Regenerative
Beneficiaries	Individual fuel poor households	Whole communities
Service model	Fragmented, intermittent, confusing	Continuous, supportive, empowering
Economic model	Extractive, national	Democratic, local

House by house



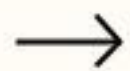
Street by street

Individual customers



Citizen collectives

Private profit



Civic value

Emerging Organising Thesis on Link Road / Neighbourhood v1.

/ Everyday Participation

Practical everyday participation as a foundational principle of organising at a neighbourhood scale to convene, build mutual trust, create everyday spaces to play, work, grow, dream, ++ together. Building on the assets, histories, wisdoms, dreams and aspirations of the place. Starting where we are.

/ Nurturing Collective Agency

Building our collective sensemaking of our local and interdependent global systems, power, skills, knowledge, ownership and confidence to take shared action.

/ Democratising Knowledge

Make visible, collectively sense, design for, and make available access to all scales of data, research, knowledge to the neighbourhood. Uplift marginalised knowledge systems and resource new knowledge production from under resourced communities.

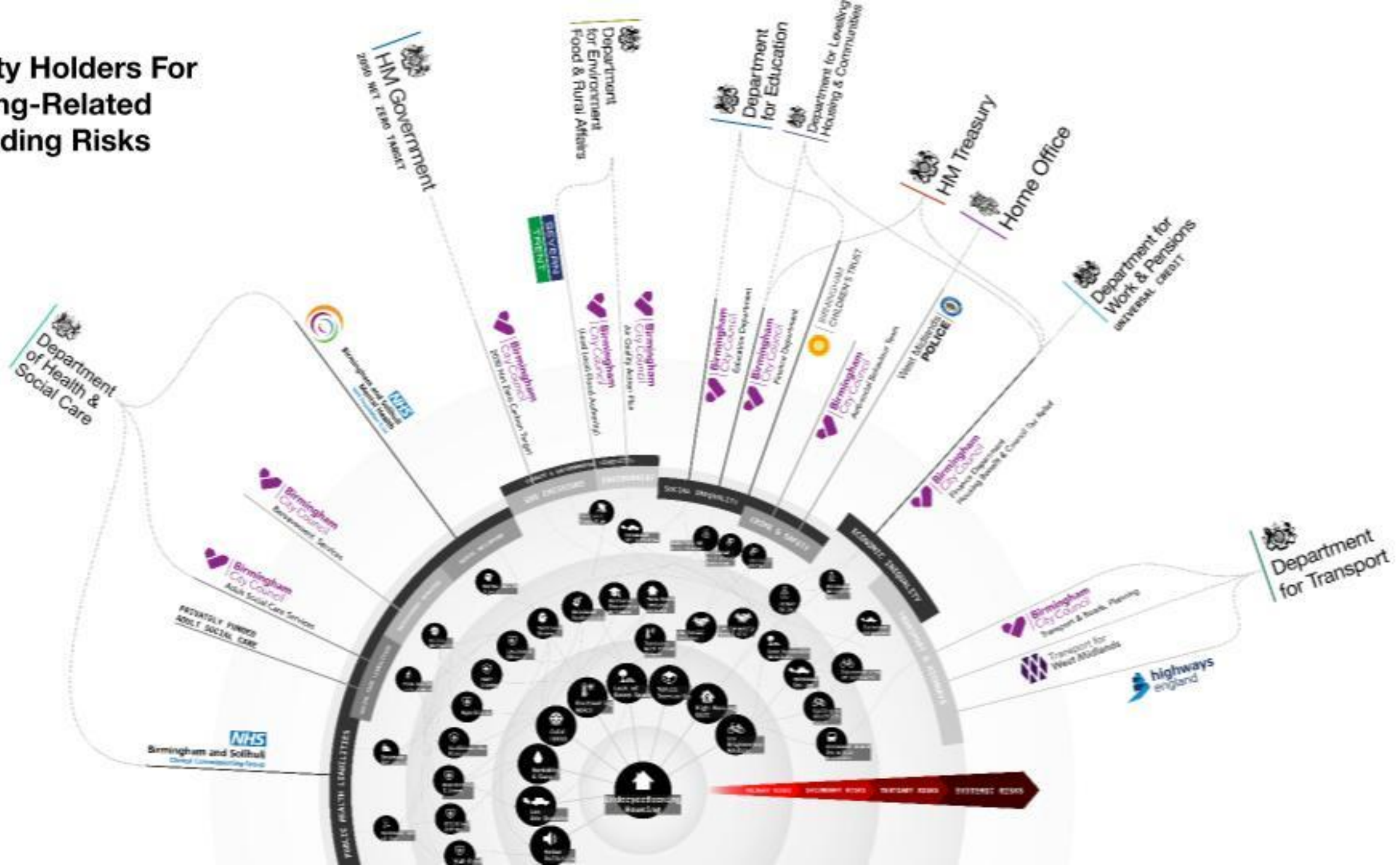
/ Unlocking + Cultivating Imaginations

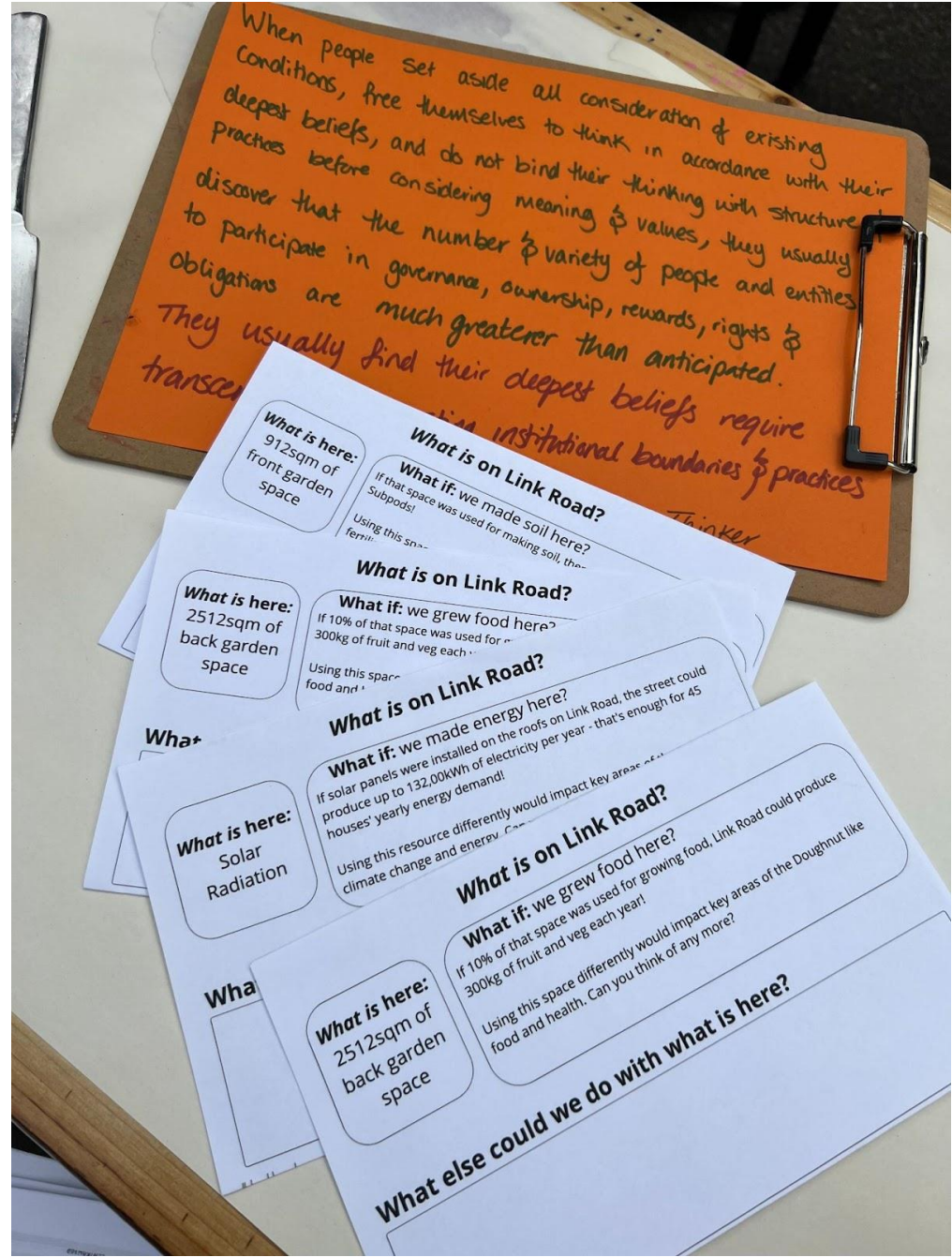
Unlocking the inspirational, imaginative and vibrant possibilities for regenerative futures beyond the immediate challenges and single point solutions that our current systems privilege, and opening up and designing for radical possibilities.

/ Homes, Streets + Neighbourhoods as Systems

Organising as interconnected ecosystems, with partners, across challenges, opportunities, outcomes, portfolios, rather than isolated discrete projects and solutions.

Liability Holders For Housing-Related Cascading Risks









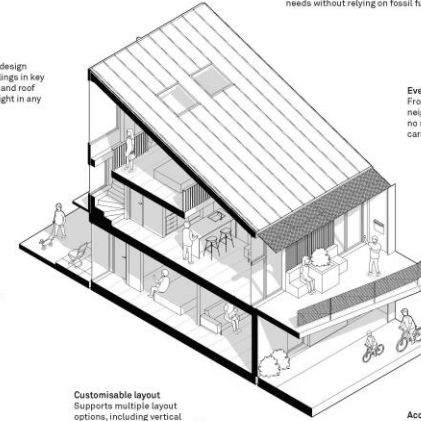
Designed for community living

The house type brings together many of the lessons we've learned about how to build homes that work. It is compact, flexible and economical – but at the same time the design is bright, generous and designed with user needs in mind, even down to small details.

Sun & daylight
The mezzanine level design creates spacious ceilings in key areas. High windows and roof lights maximise daylight in any orientation.

Easy to adapt and maintain
Owners can fix into any wall, anywhere.

Zero-carbon
Largely timber construction means the building sequesters more CO2 than it takes to build. Solar PV generation provides all the heating and energy needs without relying on fossil fuels.



Everyday details
From seats for chatting with neighbours, to a dropbox – so no more 'sorry we missed you' cards.

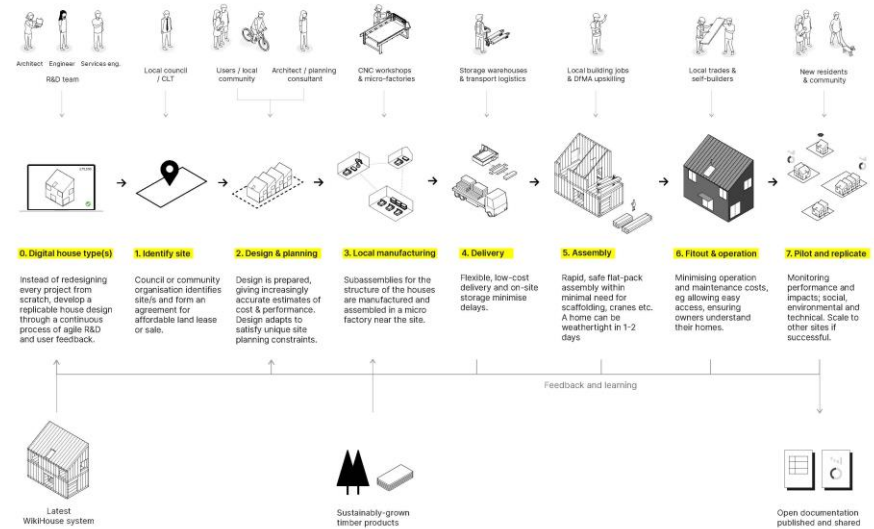
Customisable layout
Supports multiple layout options, including vertical townhouse, three-bed detached, or loft-style living.

Accessible & friendly
Supports accessible living on ground floor and first level access creates an elevated 'street' for connecting with neighbours.

Test location. Within the larger site, Architecture 00 have tested a co-living scheme of 15 units. The aspiration being to layout a logic for the first dwellings that could then be replicated across the site linking the communal facilities into a new 'community cluster'. Taking advantage of the existing retaining walls, the design seeks to create unique communal facilities that float over the canal and create key visual links for residents and security to the canal route.



Local supply chain for zero carbon homes



↻ CIVIC SQUARE Retweeted



Charlie Edmonds @... · 06/06/2022 ...

This week @CIVIC_SQUARE we hosted a series of sessions on our neighbourhood retrofit work.

Alongside neighbours, we discussed the need to improve the built environment through a street-based collective approach, facilitated by hyperlocal governance and civic infrastructure.



just another tree hugger and 3 others

🗨️ 13 ❤️ 62 ↗️



CIVIC SQUARE @CI... · 05/06/2022 ...

We loved trialling a What Is → What If card game for the street together, looking at data points for Link Road such as how much open space there is, how much roof space there is, asking what if Link Road was its own power station? What if Link Road composted all of its own food?



CIVIC SQUARE and 8 others

🗨️ 1 ↻ 4 ❤️ 7 ↗️







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A!

ARCHITECTS!
CLIMATE
ACTION
NETWORK

zero
carbon
house

NEW
ECONOMICS
FOUNDATION

13th — 16th July 2022



RETROFIT

Reimagined

