

### **Evie Hodgkin** - Creating Communities: Intergenerational Living

Social isolation and loneliness are significant issues in the UK, particularly among the ever-increasing elderly population. The concept of designing developments to facilitate intergenerational living and foster community cohesion could help to tackle this. My proposal is to increase the understanding and awareness of this concept and the community benefit it can bring, so that councils, social housing providers and other developers are encouraged to consider it. This would mean that new developments bring health and well-being benefits to the communities that call them home.

### **Asiyah Ally** - Achieving community benefit through meanwhile activities

With 20,000 commercial units sitting empty in London over the past two years, there is vast untapped potential for communities to revitalise vacant buildings and high street shops. Traditionally undervalued by landowners, these spaces can be converted to encourage enterprise, learning, build social capital and promote community cohesion. My proposal is to develop a collaborative approach with London's landowners and developers to promote meanwhile uses for community benefit.

### **David Orton** - Short-term lets in London – from hollowing out to helping out

Air BnB and similar short-term let platforms have been described as “hollowing out” our cities due to the disruptive effect on communities and negative impact on housing supply. In London, many thousands of the properties listed on Air BnB sit empty on any given night. I propose a new initiative to help turn Air BnB into a force for social good. Through increased flexibility on occupancy day limits, ‘hosts’ are incentivised to work with London boroughs to provide much needed temporary housing to homeless families, keyworkers and others in need of very low-cost accommodation in their local area.

### **Joanna Jedrasiak** - WePlan mobile app: Improving user experience of engagement

Community benefit and community engagement have become important parts of both the political agenda and policy design. However, typical response rates to planning consultations are low, especially amongst younger residents. To change this we need to make it easier for individuals to participate, especially at a time when people are used to giving and receiving information quickly and in a digital way. We need a platform that will allow for real-time dialogue as opposed to the reactive and analogue consultation system; the process, the language and the communication channels need to be simplified. I believe that a mobile phone application is the best tool to achieve that.

### **Nelupa Malik** - From Fords to food

Obesity is one of the biggest health issues facing Barking and Dagenham's residents. It is one of the borough's most significant and complex challenges, affecting the wellbeing of individuals and families. In June 2019, the City of London Corporation announced that it intends to relocate Billingsgate, Smithfield and New Spitalfields wholesale markets to the borough. My proposal seeks to explore how Barking and Dagenham can capitalise on the Corporation of London's investment in the borough to promote healthy eating, well-being and access to healthy food for residents in order to help rebrand the borough as a destination for good, affordable food for residents and visitors alike.

### **Jacob Tong** - Building the future of London: The Community Right to Buy

For many Londoners, the thought of buying somewhere to call home is out of reach. For even more, the thought of building somewhere to call home hasn't even occurred. We live in a city where diversity, adaptation and opportunity are defining characteristics, except in one case - our homes. Those with the means can rarely buy the perfect home; and the rest resort to renting the least-bad they can find: no-one gets what they want. My answer is the community right-to-buy, which enables local people to ballot for the ability to purchase land and buildings in order to re-develop them as they see fit.

### **Alison White** - Maximising community benefit from the get-go: Turning towards the immediate needs of residents

Living in an area of regeneration is unsettling. Many residents already live with insecurity and feel threatened by discussions about change. The consequence is that people resist or ignore opportunities for engagement. The early consultation period is an ideal time for regeneration teams to get to know residents and respond to what really matters to them. This often has nothing to do with regeneration and everything to do with unmet need. Choosing to turn towards the immediate needs of residents helps build trust and create space for people to be able to imagine a better future for themselves and their communities.

### **Hannah Edlmann** - Placemaking at the heart: A Community Value Assessment Toolkit

How do we ensure new developments reflect the needs of the wider community? Empowering local and future stakeholders so they are at the heart of the design process is key to driving forward long-term successful communities, an element that is often an afterthought and a tick box exercise. Economic pressures and new planning policies present complex design challenges and creating well designed community spaces alongside high-quality homes are vital pieces of the placemaking puzzle. My proposal introduces a planning toolkit which will enable developers to shape community spaces at the start of the design process to ensure they work for all.

### **Lauren Laviniere** - Losing the pot? Developing a participatory approach for neighbourhood CIL

Most people want to work together to improve their area, but the current system is not effective in supporting this. The application of neighbourhood CIL (NCIL) is not working fairly everywhere. Traditional consultation methods and 'top down' decision making mean that the current approaches are not delivering on the promise of local empowerment and easy, open participation for all. There is also a disparity between those areas with neighbourhood plans and those without. This situation must change in order to deliver greater and more meaningful benefits to all local communities. My proposal promotes a participatory approach which supports better engagement on, and local decision making for, spending NCIL.

### **Gillian King** - Engaging with the past

For Londoners on the dementia spectrum, community engagement may be a lost concept; the incidence of dementia rapidly rises, often bringing loneliness and depression as cognitive abilities decline. Studies show positive benefits from 'Reminiscence Therapy', restoring some personal identity with past events, people and places and London's heritage-led regeneration projects could make a dynamic contribution. Working with Southwark Council, Southwark Pensioners and heritage specialists, I propose to install a Southwark Reminiscence Project managed through the planning process, using heritage resources to

design memory packs of archaeological artefacts and sensory materials to restore moments of engagement and quality of life for dementia patients and carers.

**Lawrence Archer** - Construction Apprenticeships as Win-Win: Aligning community benefit with long term industry strategy

Providing employment and training for the local area is a pillar of sustainable development and an important community benefit. Additionally, the skills gap in the construction industry is well publicised and investing more in training young people is an opportunity to address this. This is recognised in government strategic visions and required by planning policy. However, is bemoaned by developers as it puts financially squeezed projects under strain. I believe a change to funding structure, to allow this cost to sit more comfortably with long term business planning, could make this community benefit a win-win for the industry.

**Máire Grogan** - Climate crisis and the built environment

100 of the planet's leading climate scientists have warned that urgent and unprecedented changes must be implemented within 12 years in an attempt to keep global warming to no more than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Given the failures of government and businesses to meet legally binding commitments and targets, and with 80% of the UK population either very or fairly concerned about the climate crisis, how can the built environment and those who work within the sector empower communities to take action? My proposal is to allocate a proportion of the Community Infrastructure Levy solely for community-led projects to help address the climate emergency.

**Isobel Pierce** - Hidden Voices – Empowerment of young people through regeneration

Community participation has been a statutory planning requirement for almost 50 years, however little progress has been made in engaging hard-to-reach groups, particularly young people. Young people face a range of challenges, from the housing affordability crisis to rising youth crime rates and cuts to youth services, making it even more critical that young people are given a voice to influence (and benefit from) the changes that regeneration can bring. However, there are many barriers to participation that are not easy to overcome. I propose a strategy to incentivise involvement, which would bring benefits to the young participants as well as the regeneration schemes.

**Peter van der Zwan** - Social value match

Architects are keen to deliver social value as it allows us to engage better with the communities within which we build. At the pre-planning stage we offer things like career advice, work placements and project funding but delivery within this tight timeframe is challenging and opportunities are often missed. My proposal is simple; an app to match community stakeholders with architects. Profiles are created by local users so at bid stage architects can propose a locally tailored offer, speeding up the process, reducing client management and facilitating access to more stakeholders. Spark a connection today with Social Value Match!

**Anisha Jogani** - COMM(ON)UNICATION – Making planning and urban development public

It is more urgent than ever to democratise urban planning and development. Over decades it has become increasingly politicised and inaccessible to the public who have little understanding or influence. With 'community' and 'community benefit' becoming popular buzz words, many demographics and diasporas continue to be excluded and are unable to

access current models of engagement and consultation. Large numbers of the public with a multitude of languages, ages, socio-economic and cultural backgrounds fall outside of most 'communities' that meaningfully engage with the process. My proposal sets out some accessible methods and tools through which the wider public will be empowered to participate in shaping their city.

**Charlotte Morphet** - Return on engagement – understanding the value and community benefit of citizen engagement & participation

Communities are feeling disenfranchised from the process of delivering new development and regeneration. Also, because we have a strong distrust in the built environment sector – according to developer and landowner Grosvenor – only 2% of the public trust developers and 7% trust planners. Many of the challenges and issues can be overcome through meaningful engagement, yet all too often engaging with communities is seen as an obstacle and tick box exercise rather than a valuable part of the development process. There is a solution. A new tool that demonstrates the social and financial return on engagement, assisting all in setting out the case for proper engagement.