Collaboration to scale sustainability action - between community, local authorities, others...

1. What works well?

2. What doesn't work so well?

The well established process of inviting people to share their vision of what life will be like in say 2030 – and then encourage "back-casting" each step that will lead to that in 2029, 2028 etc [Rob Hopkins]

sometimes be more helpful by supporting a collaborative envvironment - e.g. forums, funding, networking, facilities where community organisations can share ideas and resources - Argyll and Bute Council's covid

development of projects that work very well for the local community / environment but have wider benefits

It's good to see a focus on working with communities and groups who may not normally have a voice in relation to sustainability

Finding out what communities want and allowing them to see change within a good timeframe.

Working with not doing to!

Communication of shared goals - language again

Many community organisations need community development and other support to involve everyone and work collaboratively

Governance - I wonder how different organisational cultures can adapt to speak each other's language... e.g. more grassroots based orgs vs hierarchical orgs

Listening to people giving them opportunities to say what they'd like to see in their community

Identifying people who can help support the changes in the dying organisation / paradigm - see https://bit.ly/twoloops

Start with the co-creation of a vision and work back from there to create a pathway with opportunities as opposed to barriers

ways of contributing - any artistic way for instance - we did a young person competition allowing visioning using any artistic method - minecraft videos, poems, models, posters, drawings, stop start videos, play,

point about ensuring communities understand the issues so are in position to support radical policies. Think community-based solutions are important here as well as grander more top-down citizen assembly type

are a way for groups to start dialogue with public bodies to improve how things are done, and could be used to have more influence on policy and planning to make it more sustainable. Groups and public bodies need more awareness and

Q. Engagement with local Councillors? wonder what the experience is of this. A. It is essential to get elected representatives on board / advocating for our projects.

community groups that are run and overpowered by certain people in the community that does not allow for the voice of everyone

politics emerging between community council and community development trusts to get community wealth out from hydro or solar farm schemes that need to be recentered on the purpose. Interventions are

Incentives for local government officers seem sometimes to be more about enforcing upward accountability to national policies and ways of working than downwards to what people want

Tenders still focus too heavily on financial element and not enough on people, community, planet. Scoring on tenders have to change to balance people, planet, profit with more local focus,

Sometimes a NO is also feedback and we need to work with where there is a pathway :)

local authorities still attribute too much importance to financial rather than social or environmental benefit

Difficulties understanding everyone's roles – I like the bee analogy of communities as more agile and councils as the stable tree providing the environment

Balance of investment and ROI where local government may invest for return to community in parternship with private that seek ROI to be maximal - at cost of sustainability

'Control' through parcelling out tiny sums of money for short term projects

responsibility for their own places, marginalised, disadvantaged and stigmatised communities may need support to see their circumstances in light of unequal social structures - see Health Issues in the Community course for

Differences in legal and other requirements can hinder service level agreements to work together. Local authorities have to work to a wide range of laws and strategies that are not required for community groups etc.

Local authorities too often talk at rather than listening and facilitating / enabling

Conflict resolution? between communities and councils, and also maybe within communities. Communities can be diverse, and can contain folk who don't want much to do with sustainability

Map of Regeneration Group Activity

Share your 'top three' points...

1. Everything shifts when government changes – hard to keep up with interests and appropriate contacts

Keep it simple/ stupid i.e. use language and concepts that are easy to understand and relate to for the the audience. Need to make it really relevant and adapted to their needs and show 'what's in it for them'.

Try to ensure community collaboration does not lead to competition

1. keep it simple stupid

1. Community Empowerment needs actually respected and delivered! See Arnstein's Ladder of Participation https://citizenshandbook.org/arnsteinsladder.html

People pay it forward, buying a haircut or coffee for the next person. In tackling the energy crisis, people want to put funds into this, to create energy credits for those in fuel poverty, but who is trusted to administer this is a

2. Funders need new projects all the time (public sector and grants) – hard to keep going with successful projects which don't self-fund

Lovely looking cards. Seem to assume a 'community' exists that can start to evaluate itself and start to form a project. Need to problematise 'community'

Great to use card with altered images relevant to Scotland

Communication is key, and knowing your collaborators well (values, interests, willingness to engage, understanding, priorities etc) is important. Very often our 'sustainability language' and tools get in the way.

There is enthusiasm in communities, but harnessing it is difficult.

The Cards are available [on special offer just now] https://ecovillage.org/product/ecovillage-design-cards/   Just £10 for the A4 version of the cards in English! + P&P

3. Need more transparency – need good information so we can build from where we are

Need both individual responsibility and big scale policy change – discussed role of participatory democracy and support to communities & public sector to help get popular support for radical policy

Not everyone involved in local sustainable work such as local food growing, tends to be those who can afford it

Need to problematise funding and what regenerative funding would look like. Wouldn't be fighting for the crumbs which fall from the rich men's tables...

The language of these cards is too ambiguous for LA's and would make it difficult to engage with officers. Being specific is underrated!