



The Company of Community Organisers

Look at what role community organisers play in inspiring social action at a neighbourhood level

To explore how Community Organisers and Big Local Areas can work together to the benefit of residents

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inspiring social action in neighbourhoods all across England

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What is Community Organising?



Community Organising is the work of building relationships in communities to activate people and create social and political change through collective action. It enables communities to empower themselves and harnesses the power of individuals to work together in their shared self-interest



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The Company of Community Organisers

- National membership body for Community Organisers
- Provide training for individuals, community organisations and public bodies in the theory and practice of community organising
- Developing local and regional networks to build community capacity across neighbourhoods
- National network to enable citizens to effect change – putting local people in the lead
- Using digital technologies to support Digital Community Organising

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Key achievements since 2011:

supported over
15,000
volunteers

recruited over
540
community
organisers

listened to over
125,000
residents

Worked with
over **150**
hosts

supported
nearly
1,500
community
projects

Supported
**Social
Action**

grant funded
over **100**
employers

worked in over **400**
neighbourhoods

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Perspective from which we see the world

Communities are full of potential.
Special places with special people

The skills and talents of people and their potential exists – but may lay dormant

The assets and resources need to be unlocked so that the 'invisible' becomes 'visible'



Communities are made of people suffering multiple disadvantages

There are inherent problems with crime, disorder, unemployment and welfare claimants

People are hard to reach and are not using the services that they should be



What is listening?



Listening, in short, is the capacity to discern the underlying habitual character and attitudes of people with whom we communicate, including ourselves, in such a way that, at its best, brings about a sense of shared experience and mutual understanding

G. Brodie & N. Crick 2014



Listening – the starting point for engagement

Growing Spaces Sneinton in Nottingham



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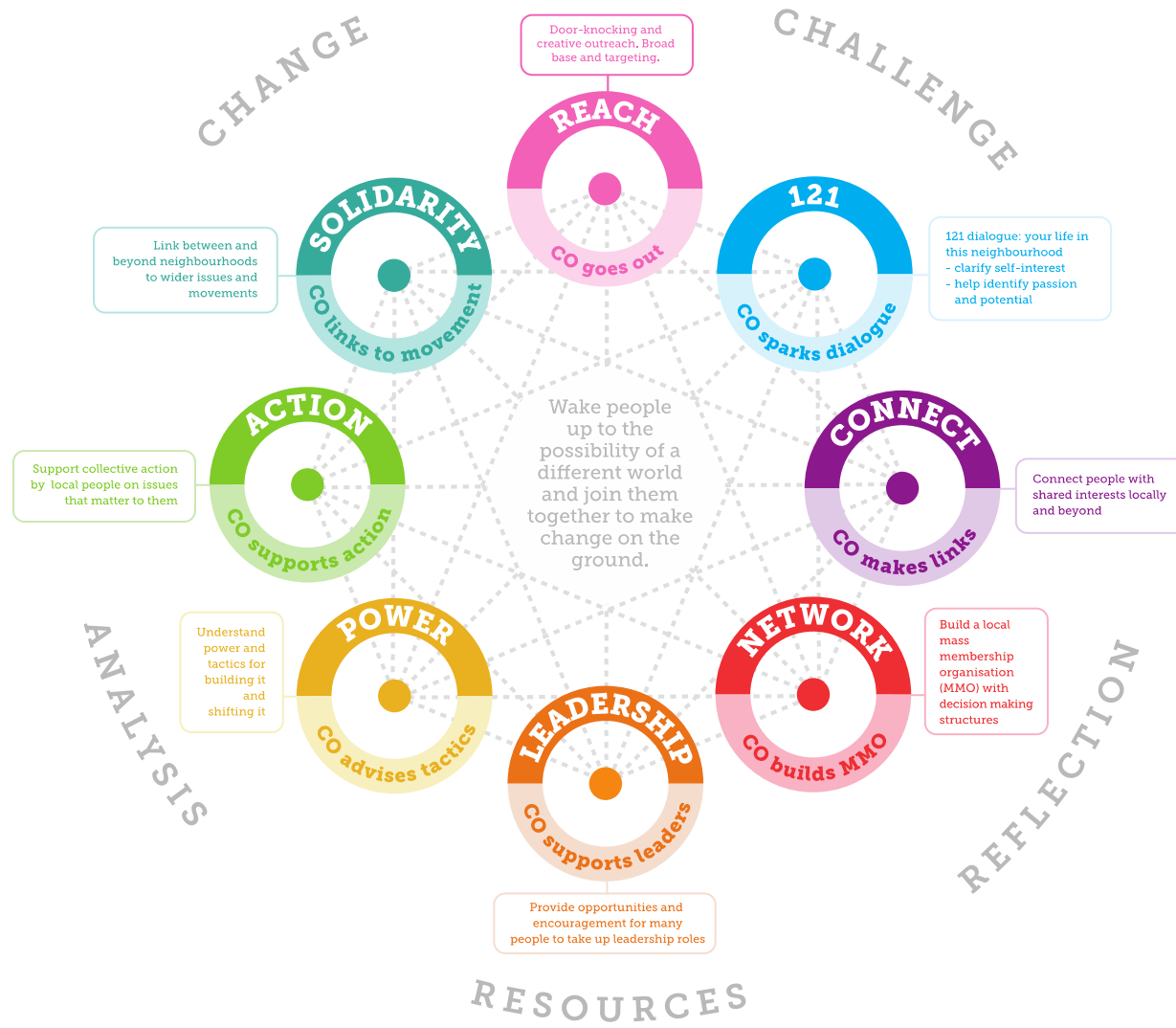


So the starting point matters...

... but then what?

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It's the beginning of the journey...

...but what has been found out so far?



Ipsos Mori and NEF Consulting, Evaluation Report - 2014

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Dyke House, Hartlepool – Case Study

- Community Organising broke down some of the perceptions of programme's from the 'outside' and built trust between residents and other stakeholders
- It built a new power dynamic in the community and disrupted the traditional structures that can had tended to centralise power
- The team work from a can-do perspective starting with a position of 'YES'





Bringing the two approaches together...

1. What has struck you about the work of community organisers?
2. Where could Community Organisers add value to Big Local Areas to...
 - ... Strengthen what is already happening?
 - ... Overcome some of the challenges that are being faced?
3. If Community Organisers are working within Big Local areas what advice would you give them?