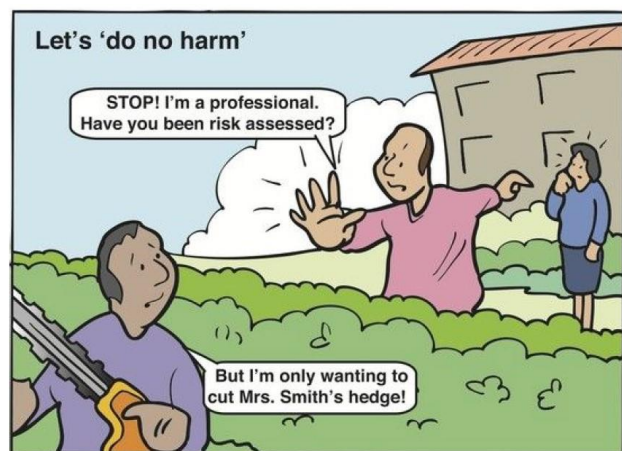


Asset Based Community Development



Community Building

Discovering an Asset Based approach to Community Development



Beginning with our stories

Share a story of when 3 or 4 neighbours came together to do something for the wellbeing of the community (or made the community better)?

What did you notice in the stories?

7 building blocks of community-building



Which of these building-blocks 'showed up in your story?

(The following pages offer more detail on each of the key principles, and some questions for ongoing reflection.)

People

The gifts, skills, passions and knowledge of residents when contributed together can lead to the collective wellbeing of the community.

Where have I seen this happen?

Small steps to nurture more

Associations

These are the clubs, groups and networks of unpaid citizens found in community life. They can be formal like a constituted group or informal like a reading group. As a bird is to a flock, a citizen is to an association.

Where is there associational life?

Small steps to nurture more

Institutions

Local institutions include the for profit, non-profit, non-governmental organisations (NGO's) and government. At best they exist to serve by helping local neighbours, and they consider neighbours as the primary inventors of community wellbeing.

Where do I see institutions serving community-led wellbeing

Small steps to nurture more

Local economy

This can be monetary, but also as valid is the non-monetary exchange economy. This can be the exchange of gifts/skills (baking a cake in exchange for knitting a scarf), bartering and swapping (e.g. sharing one lawnmower in a street), and money (including alternative currencies), can help keep money within a community (credit unions, co-operatives, show local initiatives).

Where do I see the exchange economy active?

Small steps to nurture more

Place

The spaces and environments (both natural and human made) where we can casually bump into our neighbours, where we can gather, share experiences, we can contribute our time, skills, gifts, and passions. This can be the built environment e.g. the cul-de-sac, local park, village green, community café, shopping parade, school gate, as well as the natural habitat e.g. woods, lakes, rivers

Where are the places people bump into each other?

Small steps to nurture more

Where do people gather?

Where are the 'hidden gems'?

Stories

The local culture of a place, the 'community way', the stories that pay attention to the ways people have survived, have experienced a place, have found flourishing, have expressed something of themselves, have come together, how we celebrate and commiserate.

What stories do people share about 'life round here'

Small steps to nurture more

Traditions

The rhythms, regular events, celebrations, festivals, and other times when a neighbourhood truly comes together. When people feel bound to a greater whole and connects us to our neighbours. This could be an annual neighbourhood bonfire night and firework display, community pantomime, the summer fete, a Big Iftar.

What are your community traditions?

Small steps to nurture more

5 key principles of ABCD

1. Neighbour-led
2. Relationship-oriented
3. Asset- (or Gift-) based
4. Place-rooted
5. Inclusion-focused

What are you noticing? (About you, About your community, About others)

(The following pages offer more detail on each of the key principles, and some questions for ongoing reflection.)

1 ABCD is neighbour-led

There are many things that people in communities are able to do for themselves, together with their neighbours, and by utilising the assets around them.

Where can I see this in my area?

Small steps to value & nurture it

Where is this working well?

Questions to help you begin to explore:

What is it that neighbours in communities are best placed to do together?

What is it that neighbours can best do, with some outside help?

What is it that neighbours need outside agencies to do for themselves?

2 ABCD is relationship-oriented

ABCD recognises the power of 'us', going beyond individuals to focus on relational power. Often neglected in modern post-industrial society, but it remains the power source for social movements around the world.

Often referred to as associational life: The nurturing of both informal and formal associations of people e.g. reading club, theatre group, Bingo, and the bonds that form 'between' people.

Where can I see this in my area?

Small steps to value & nurture it

Where is this working well?

Questions to help you begin to explore:

What can we do best together for ourselves and for each other?

What is it that we can do together, that we cannot do apart?

3 ABCD is Asset- (or gift-) based

The starting point for ABCD is found in what's strong, not what's wrong. It focuses on capacities everyone has; their gifts, skills and passions. Some misunderstand this as an attempt to minimise life's challenges, or normalise injustices, nothing could be further from the truth. ABCD is the process by which relational power is mobilised to produce sustainable and satisfying change. With that in mind, starting with what's strong enables local people to get organised to address what's wrong and making what's strong even stronger.

Where can I see this in my area?

Small steps to value & nurture it

Where is this working well?

Questions to help you begin to explore:

How do we currently receive the gifts of our neighbours?

How else could we receive the gifts of our neighbours?

4. ABCD is place-rooted

Small local places (recommended approx. 3000 people) are where people can connect the local associational, environmental, economic and cultural resources together. The 'Neighbourhood' or 'Village' or 'Estate' is the place where everything can come together to create an environment for flourishing.

Where can I see this in my area?

Small steps to value & nurture it

Where is this working well?

Questions to help you begin to explore:

What do we understand as our neighbourhood?

What neighbourhoods do people associate with?

What resources do we have in our neighbourhood?

5 ABCD is inclusion-focused

ABCD is about seeking the involvement and inclusion of everyone in a neighbourhood, and that everyone is viewed as an asset whatever that looks like for them. ABCD recognises the role that everyone can play, and the different ways people can participate and contribute to community life.

Where can I see this in my area?

Small steps to value & nurture it

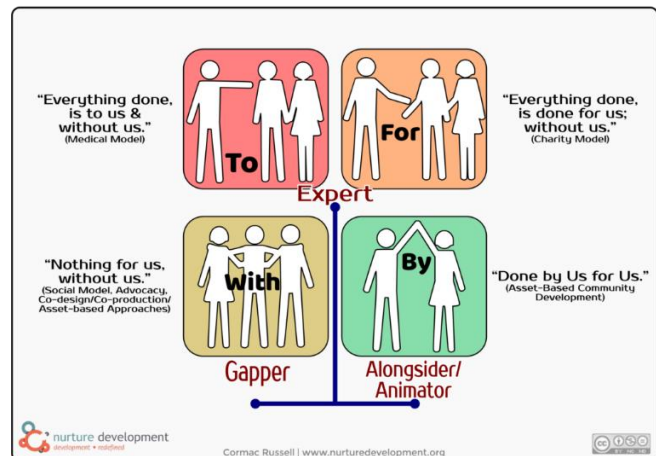
Where is this working well?

Questions to help you begin to explore:

How well do we welcome the stranger?

Who is not here and who doesn't show up?

To / For / With / By



	Model / Approach	How people might describe it	The role of professionals	The Relationship	How people are described:
To	service (or medical) model	<i>Decided without us to be provided TO us (hopefully with our consent!)</i>	Service and Provision delivered by experts taking on the roles of provider or director	Builds inescapable dependency (you are needy, and we are needed)	Clients Customers
For	charity model	<i>Chosen FOR us (hopefully with our input) then delivered FOR us</i>	Services and provision delivered by experts taking on the roles of coordinator, lead, delivery partner	Creates unintended dependency (you are needed but still needy, and you need us)	Users Beneficiaries
With	advocacy (or social) model	<i>Talked through WITH us on what to do WITH us</i>	Professional steps into the gap between a community and services/provision. They take on the roles of facilitator, and convenor	Creates co-dependency (we need you, but you also need us)	Participant Volunteer
By	ABCD approach	<i>Done BY us for us (with some assistance when we asked it)</i>	Professionals undertake the roles of alongsider or animator that offers advise/ support/ encouragement (when asked for) to realise a community created vision.	Creates inter-dependence (we need each other, everybody's gifts are valued)	Neighbours take on the roles of host, storyteller, caregiver, visionary, connector, leader

'Good Life' Conversations

5 intentions / longings for a good 'Good Life' conversation:

- we know each other by name;
- we know we are welcome;
- we are discovering our God-given gifts & passions;
- our gifts are becoming connected to other neighbours;
- our contributions are being valued & received.

			
WHAT DO YOU <i>KNOW</i>, OR KNOW <i>ABOUT</i>? WHAT'S IN YOUR HEAD?	WHAT DO YOU <i>CARE</i> ABOUT? WHAT'S IN YOUR HEART?	WHAT DO YOU ENJOY <i>DOING</i>? WHAT SKILLS ARE IN YOUR HANDS?	WHAT <i>CAUSES</i> ARE YOU PREPARED TO STAND UP FOR? WHERE WILL YOU PLANT OR MOVE YOUR FEET?

How did it feel?

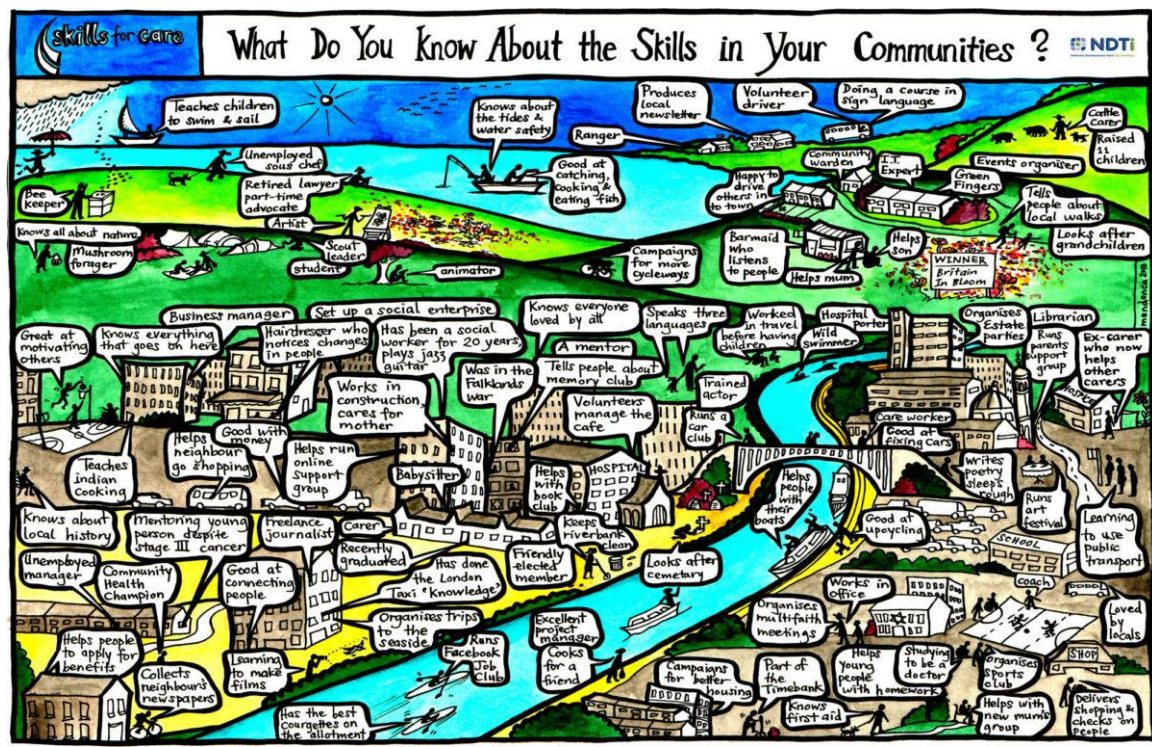
What did you notice?

Good Life Conversations:

- How could you nurture this kind of conversation...
 - In groups / spaces you are involved in?
 - In wider neighbourhood?
 - In your relationships?



Asset Mapping



Make an asset Map of Firs & Bromford:

Connectors



FINDING CONNECTORS?

WHO ARE CONNECTORS?

- Have a passion for the wellbeing of the community
- Well connected & trusted
- Make connections
- Have a motivation to connect more - build community
- Love to listen more than talk
- Make people feel welcome
- Spots gifts and skills in others
- Believes in all people

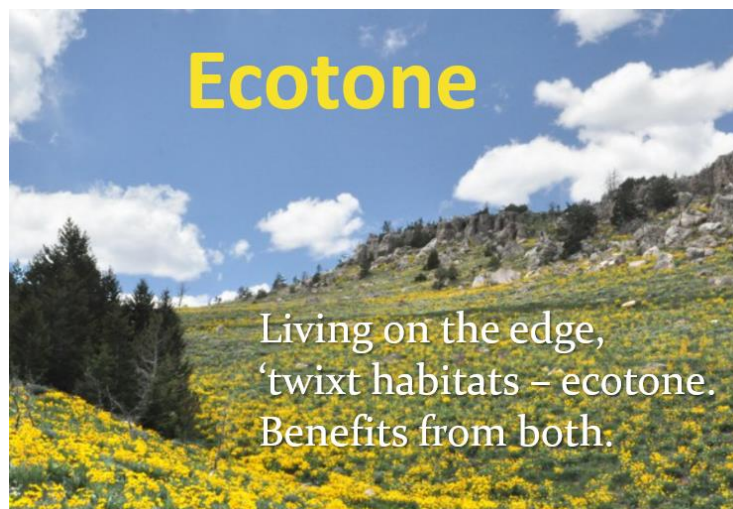
Who are connectors in our neighbourhood? What qualities do you see in them?

(people already involved and people you may know in our neighbourhood)

Bumping spaces

FINDING

INHABITING



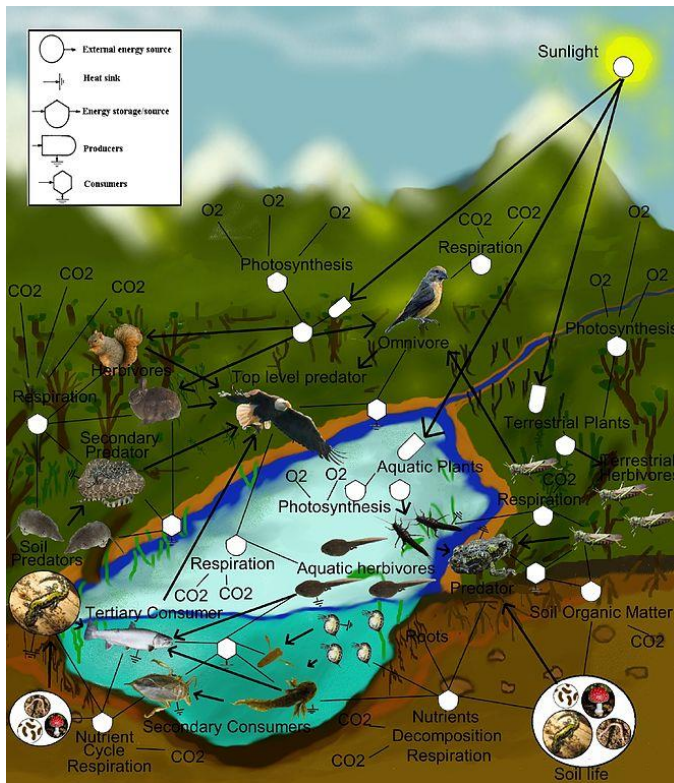
NURTURING

CREATING

Where are your bumping spaces? What makes them good?

What bumping spaces would benefit from a bit of nurturing?

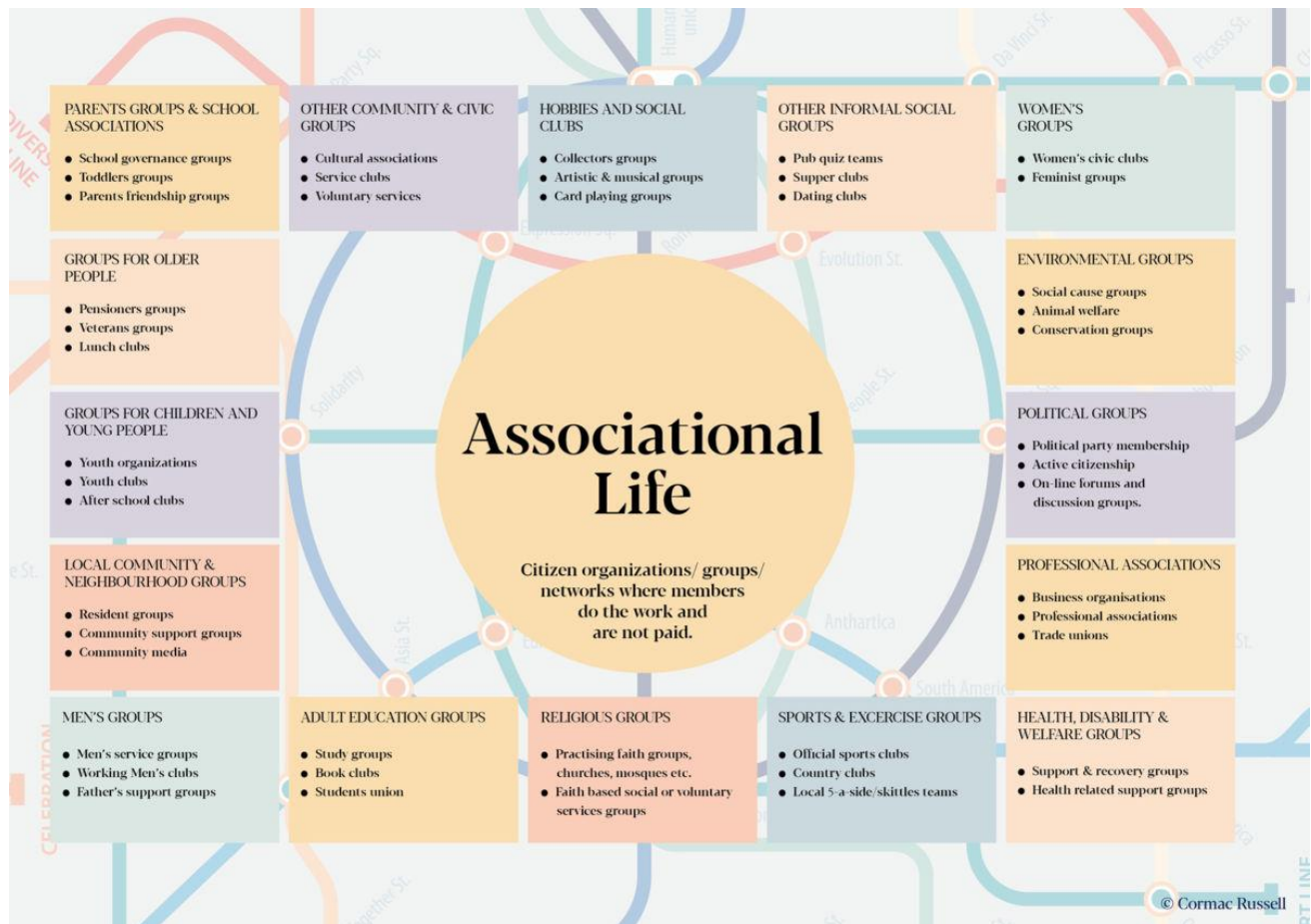
Nurturing interconnections



Where are the opportunities to nurture interconnections?

What are the challenges?

Associational Life



Why do people show-up?

How do we invite the participation of others?

How do we create good spaces?

3-lane swimming pool

Opportunities for Growth

We Can Do This!
- we already have all we need

We Can –
with some outside help / resource

Needs
significant outside help / resource



Asking the right questions, in the right order

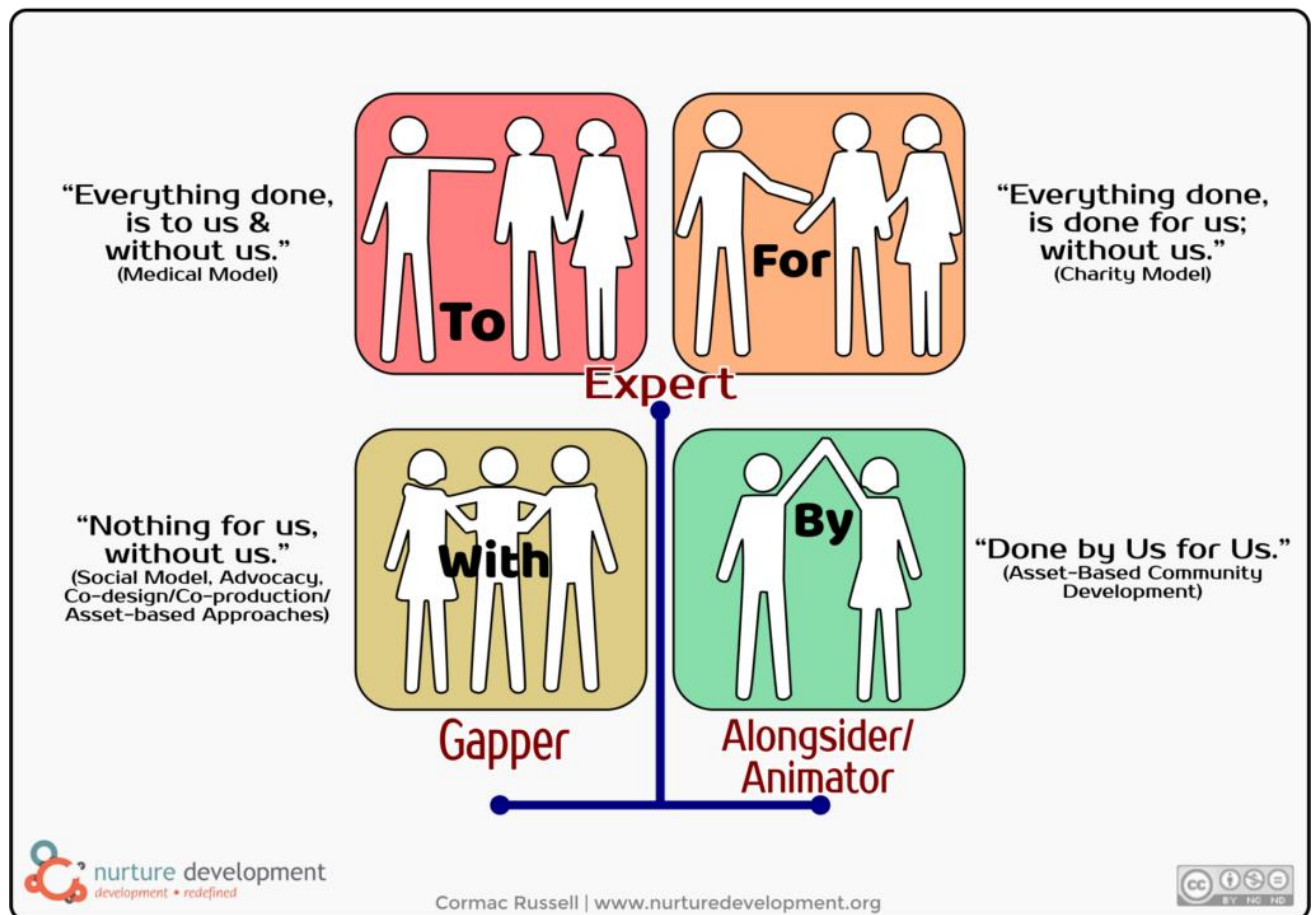
- What can we do, with the gifts and resources that are here, among us?
- What can we do here, with a bit of external support and resourcing?
- What do we need to be done, or resourced, from beyond our neighbourhood?

10 dimensions of a community-grown 'good life'

	We Can – we have what we need	We Can – with some outside Help	We need significant outside help – others to do this
 health & wellbeing			
 safety & security			
 caring for the environment			

 Nurturing local economy			
 food consumption & production			
 raising children			
 Caring for each other from birth to death			
lifelong  learning			
 responding to crises			
 nurturing democracy & social justice			

Helpers Crossroads



Where have you experienced this?

"Everything done, is to us & without us." (Medical Model)



How did it make you feel?

Where have you experienced this?



"Everything done,
is done for us;
without us."
(Charity Model)

How did it make you feel?

Where have you experienced this?

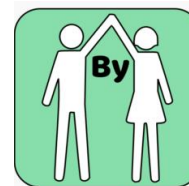
"Nothing for us,
without us."
(Social Model, Advocacy,
Co-design/Co-production/
Asset-based Approaches)



Gapper

How did it make you feel?

Where have you experienced this?

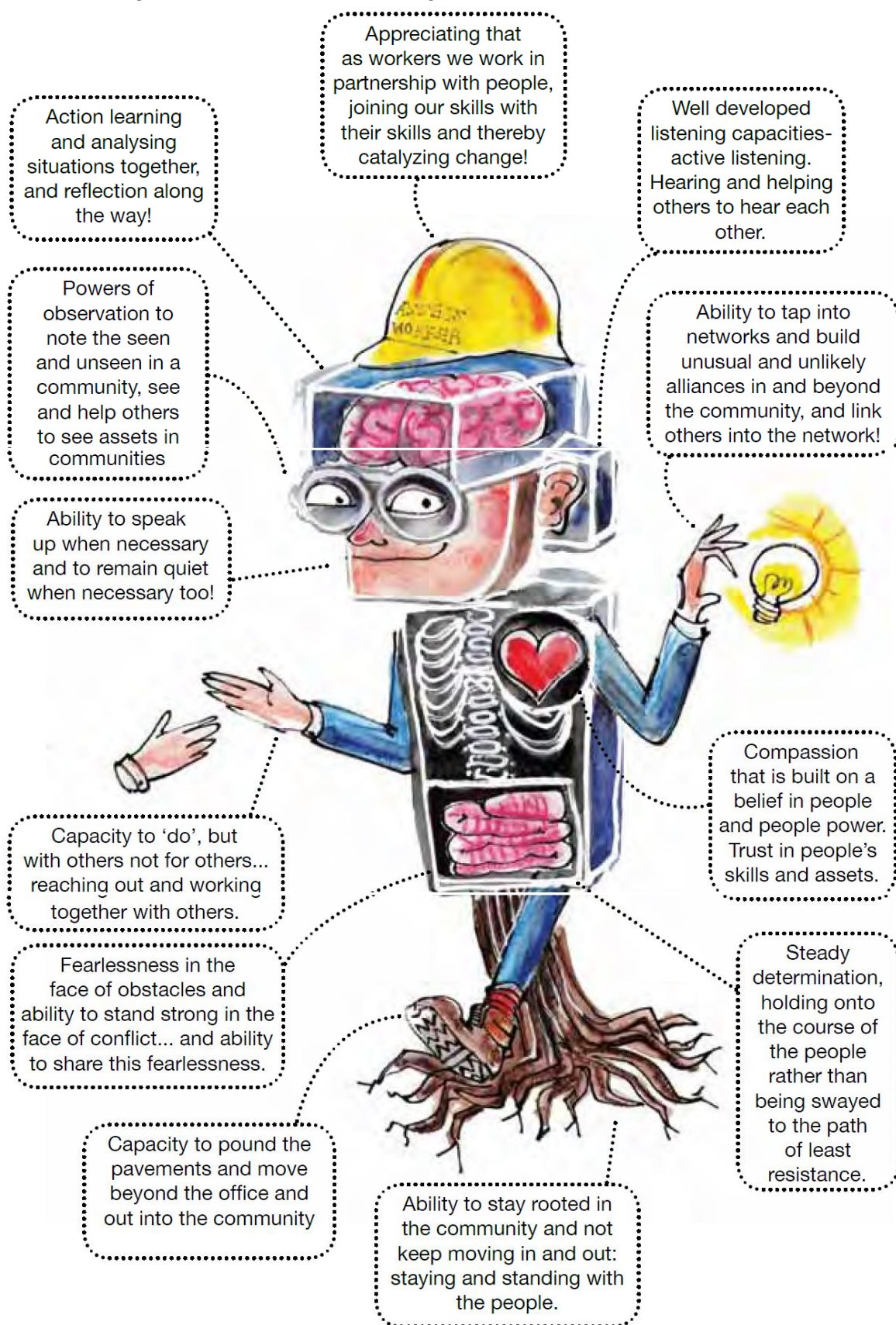


Alongsider/
Animator

"Done by Us for Us."
(Asset-Based Community
Development)

How did it make you feel?

'Anatomy of a community-builder / animator'





Where are their opportunities to animate?

What might be some of the dilemma's?