

FROM:

 PRINCE'S FOUNDATION

THINK BEFORE YOU INK.

ACTIVITY 1B

Rating Your Area

This activity creates an analysis of what is good and what is not good in your area in order to record it in a table that is recognised by the industry as a 'sustainability appraisal'. It will help you, and ultimately planners and developers, to understand what is valued locally and what is not.

What do I need to know?

Having held Activity 1a, you'll now be aware that every place is endowed with different natural, financial, social and built assets, and that we call these the Four Pillars of Sustainability. You'll now use the Pillars to rate aspects of your area, and fill in our Community Capital Matrix table.

Activity 1b Instructions

- 1.** You'll need two large (flipchart) sheets of paper (8 total) for each of the Four Pillars. One sheet will be marked 'positives' and one, marked 'negatives'.
- 2.** Under each pillar heading, write out the appropriate questions taken from the Community Capital Matrix template at the end of this document. They'll act as useful prompts for the workshop attendees (please add others as you see fit).
- 3.** Secure your flipcharts to the wall, ensuring they're well spaced around the room.
- 4.** Place a positive sheet on one side of each pillar heading and a negative sheet on the other.
- 5.** Attendees are asked to write their responses to the questions on Post-it notes for both positives and negatives (it's often better to ask people to write positives first and then negatives as it puts people in a better frame of mind).
- 6.** Arrange the responses and group them (either during or after the workshop) by putting those which occur the most often clustered higher up the sheet with the less frequent lower down. Record the answers ready to submit your findings to the Community Capital Matrix on the next page. It is a good idea to take photographs of the sheets, as a quick and easy way to remember as the post-its can come unstuck!

NATURAL

SOCIAL

FINANCIAL

BUILT

ROOTED

NATIVE

Do the gardens/landscaping/parks in your area reflect the local environment?

Are there opportunities for incorporating local species/materials in your area?

BELONGING

Is there a sense of pride among your community?

How does your local community function? Is it close-knit and does it meet regularly?

How are local traditions upheld? E.g. summer fairs, bonfires, parties.

STEWARDSHIP

Does your community manage any of its own assets? E.g. community shop/hall/allotments.

Does the whole community have a say on the types of services they want/need?

PLACE-MAKING

What does your community feel like?

What is it like to live there?

What is the built environment like? Does it have local character? Could it be improved?

CONNECTED

ECOSYSTEMS

How does the landscape/natural environment connect to the wider surrounding area?

This can include rivers, wildlife corridors – can these links be improved in any way?

SOCIAL EXCHANGE

How do people connect in your community?

What clubs/events are held which promote activity?

Could more be done to create a sense of community?

INTEGRATED

Does the community provide any local goods or products (farm/local shops)?

Are there any opportunities for increasing/enhancing the provision of local goods?

INTER-CONNECTED

How does your area link together? Are the road and footway links adequate or could they be improved?

Does your community have good access to public transport?

Can the day-to-day needs of the community be met by walking?

CONNECTED

BIODIVERSE HABITAT

What is the balance between the natural landscape and the use of land for other purposes? E.g. agriculture, public green space.

Can the relationship between people, the local environment, and animals be improved? How does the natural environment work for your community? Is it easily shared?

MIXED

What makes up your community? Is it diverse or mainly one social group?

Does your community provide for all sectors of society?

E.g. affordable homes, play areas for young children, accessibility for older generations?

DIVERSE

Are there any opportunities for making the provision of local goods more affordable and available to everyone?

Is there a wide range of businesses and scales within your community?

PROPORTIONAL

Are there a range of building types in your area?

Do you feel the architecture reflects the character of the local area?

RESILIENT

REGENERATIVE

Can your local natural environment easily respond to change?

For example, changes in climate, increases in built development.

LOCAL GOVERNANCE

What opportunities are provided in your area for people to get together and network and undertake further learning?

ADAPTABLE

How flexible is your local economy? Are there a range of local employment opportunities offering low/medium/high levels of activity?

What does your community want/need to maintain a stable economy?

DURABLE

Are the homes/places of work in your area adaptable according to peoples needs? E.g. opportunities for combining pubs/shops?

Are the materials used suited to the region?

PRUDENT

CONSERVATION

Are natural resources managed effectively in your area? Do they need to be enhanced or conserved?

Are the natural resources being used sustainably?

ACCESS TO SERVICES

What facilities and services are available to your community? Do these meet the community's wants and needs?

Are they easily accessible to all sectors of your community?

REINVESTMENT

How can economic growth be reinvested in your area to the benefit of the local community?

PRESERVATION

What are the opportunities for renewable energy/latest technologies to be used to renovate/refurbish the existing built environment?