

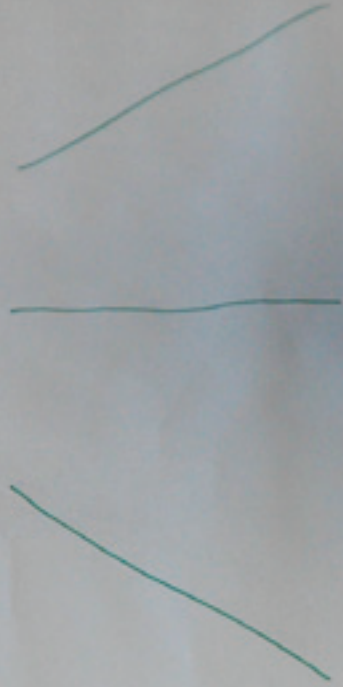
A photograph of three people sitting around a table in a meeting room. In the foreground, a clear plastic Smartwater bottle is prominently displayed. The bottle has a white cap and a label that reads "GLACIER smartwater". Below the brand name, it says "Purified, distilled water with added electrolytes" and "600ml". The background shows three people: a man on the left wearing glasses and a plaid shirt, a man in the center wearing a light-colored shirt and a dark tie, and a woman on the right with long dark hair. They appear to be in a discussion. The room has large windows with vertical blinds, and the lighting is soft and indoor.

FOOD IN Focus: FOOD POVERTY AND A GOOD SOCIETY

An interactive discussion on Food Poverty, a Good Society and how to get there?

Edge Hill University
18 October 2016

FOOD POVERTY ??



Food in Focus

A collaboration of thoughts, a conversation and idea sharing around what the good society might look like.

The aim of the focus group is to gather academic and practitioner considerations of a good society, to share what is being done by different sectors in terms of poverty alleviation and inequality and to focus on what more can be done.

The event is part of a wider research project being conducted by the Institution for Public Policy and Professional Practice at Edge Hill University on behalf of the Webb Memorial Trust. The results of discussions at this event will contribute to a final research report compiled in the spring of 2017 for the Webb Memorial Trust which examines responses to poverty, inequality, social growth and development. This report will feed into the wider policy narrative focusing on notions of a Good Society.

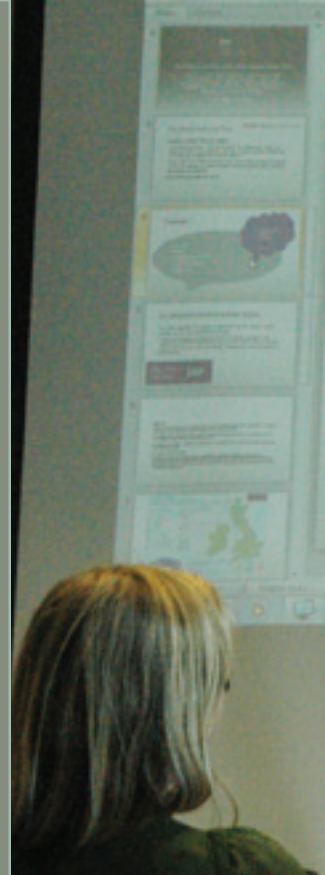
A GOOD SOCIETY, CIVIL SOCIETY AND VOICES FROM THE FRONTLINE

Collaborative Conversations in Focus intend to provide the background and initial analysis before a final report in the spring of 2017. It sets out a number of creative challenges that as part of an iterative research process will be taken out to focus groups across the United Kingdom over the autumn/winter period.

This research, hundred years after their book *The Prevention of Destitution*, is a contribution to Sidney and Beatrice Webb's vision of a Good Society.

Conversations with Fairness Commissions and civil society groups reveal that collaboration and supportive relationships, webs of social ties, human capital, trust and kindness need to be developed within and between organisations.

In a return to human values as a counter narrative to neoliberalism, a strong independent civil society offers a powerful resistance to poverty. This resistance creates 'messy middle grounds' (Sparke 2008) where the Good Society can be found, and indeed delivered, in strong collaborations between responsible and ethical organisations.





Introduction to the Collaborative Conversation

By: Katy Goldstraw



Small Group Discussions

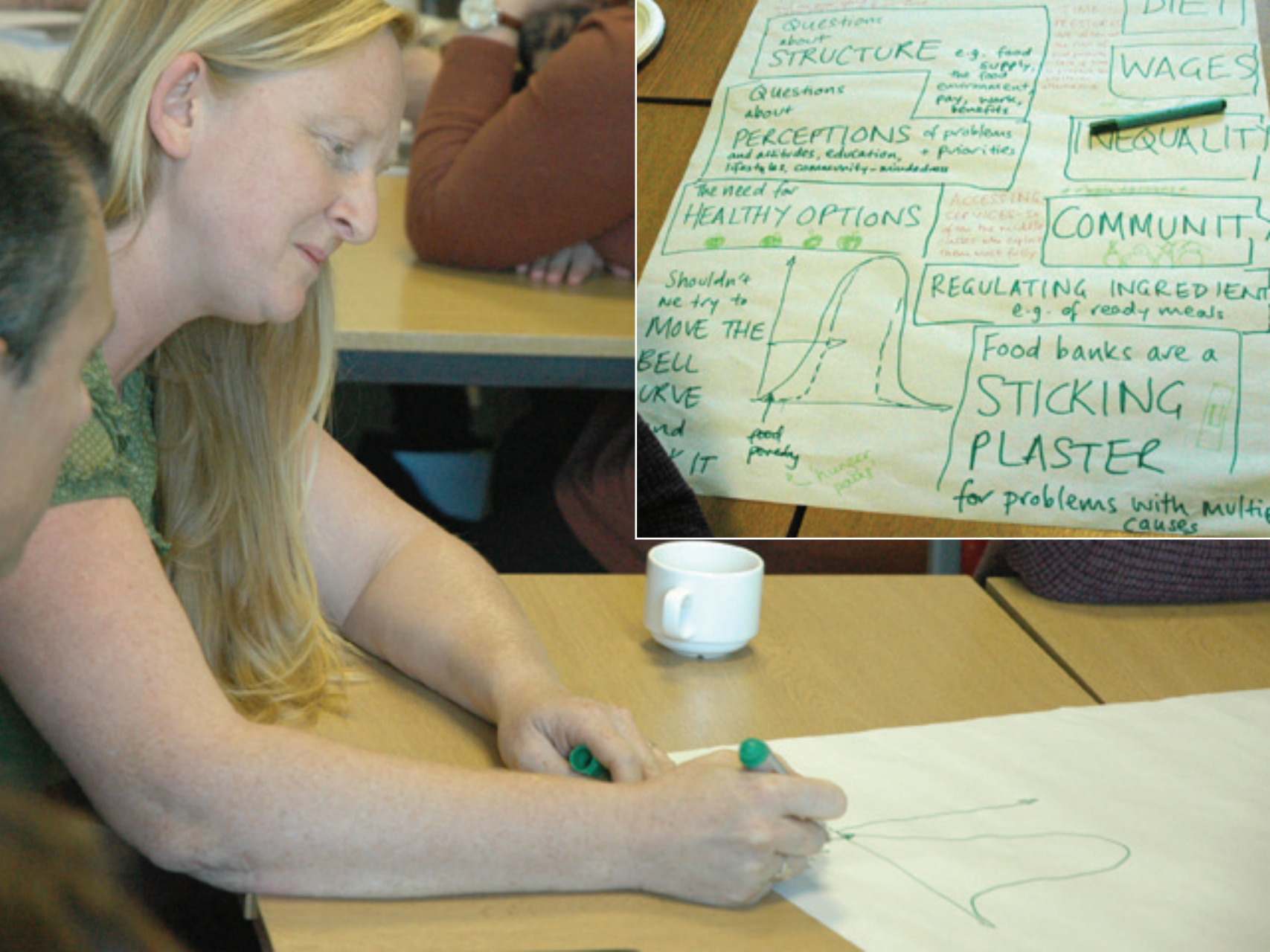
What is a good society in relation to Civil Societies response to Food Poverty?



...we started off with lots of problems - 2016 has been quite a mean year and will continue to be quite mean. We talked through problems in terms of corporate agri-business, industrial food and how obesity and poverty are not at odds with each other - and how they are intimately entangled. We talked about quality of food and food poverty as well as housing market, state welfare market, we have got a litany of social problems, structural problems which are really tricky and we are thinking 'so what do we do?'

GRAFFITI WALL

CIVIL SOCIETIES RESPONSE TO FOOD POVERTY



QUESTIONS about **DIET**

QUESTIONS about **STRUCTURE** e.g. food supply, the food environment, pay, work, benefits

QUESTIONS about **PERCEPTIONS** of problems and attitudes, education, + priorities, lifestyles, community-mindedness

The need for **HEALTHY OPTIONS**

ACCESSING SERVICES - e.g. of the most vulnerable - those who may not access them fully

COMMUNIT

REGULATING INGREDIENTS e.g. of ready meals

Food banks are a **STICKING PLASTER** for problems with multiple causes

Shouldn't we try to **MOVE THE BELL CURVE** and **FIX IT**



IT COSTS MORE TO BE POOR - energy meters, spread payments with APR - and the poor spend a higher proportion of \$

Food Poverty to the civil Society

Questions about STRUCTURE

Questions

e.g. food supply the food environment

Government doesn't put money where their mouth is

Government LAUNCH

Food Poverty

Knowledge/education

Relat

Collective vs Residual

Role of philanthropy?

Role of state

Network Foodbanks

Challenges

Parents how

Role of State

Network Foodbanks

Role of philanthropy

Collective (solidarity) vs Residual (charity)

Political agency?

Role of state

Network Foodbanks

Challenges

Parents how



“...can we grow our *Five-a-Day* ourselves?”



“weird stuff is going on in



people's head about food"



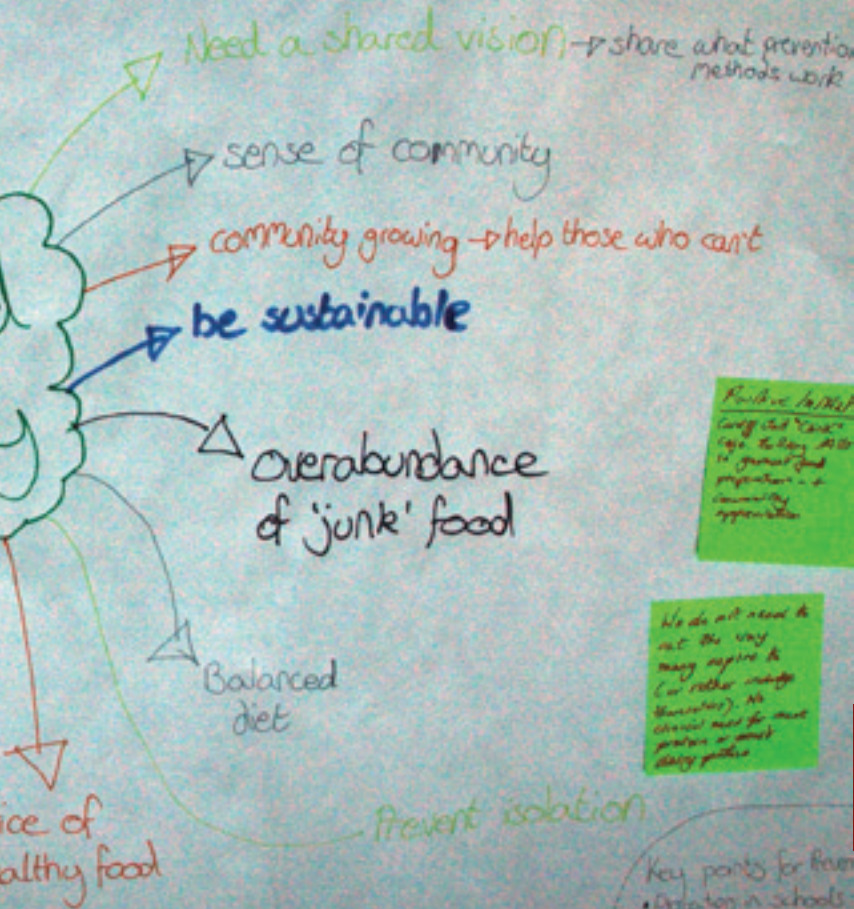
"this conversation is not out in the public domain yet..."

"when 6-year old girls are counting their calories something is really wrong in how people relate to food"

VOICES FROM THE FRONT



ACCESS TO LAND!



*Ruthie's initial
 "Living and Learning
 with the Land" 2010
 1st general food
 presentation - a
 community
 appreciation*

*We do not need to
 eat the very
 many things that
 we rather change
 (transfats). We
 should need the most
 protein in most
 dairy products*

- Key points for Prevention
- Education in schools
 - Sustainable living
 - Sense of community essential - power to change a system helps individuals

*Consistency
 Prevention -*

*Reciprocity
 Support -*



A grower needs access to land – holding people back in ability to be sustainable can be addressed – difficult to do as an individual but can be done with land owners.

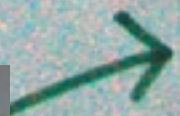
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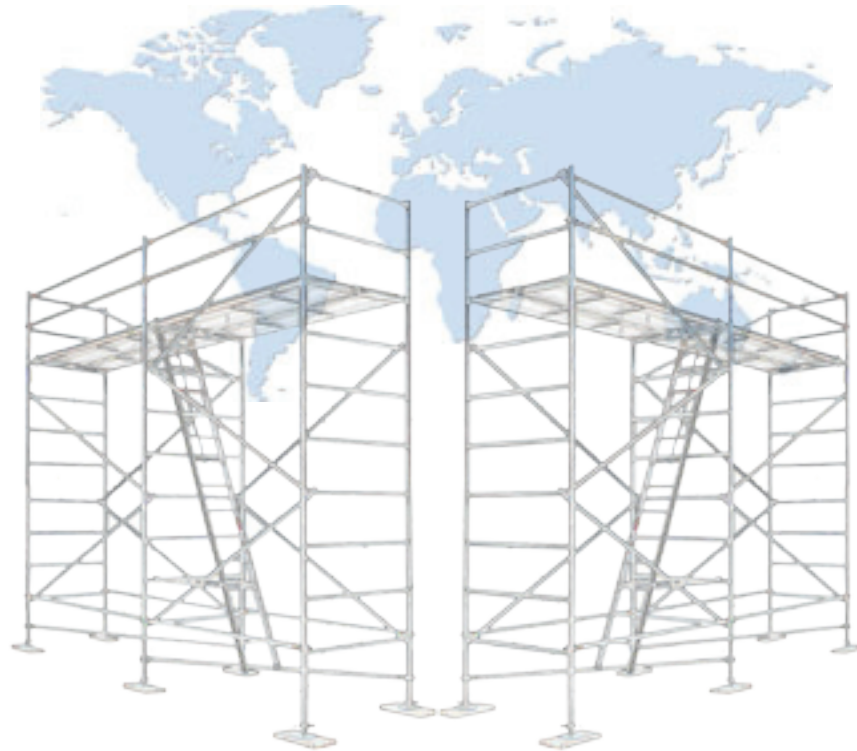
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CREATING A GOOD SOCIETY

Extending Webb's 1916 Extension ladder into 2016 Scaffolding



Interwoven collaborations of Civil Society creating a Scaffolding of a Good Society using responsible and ethical organisations built on strong human values of collaboration, public love and social spirit.



Sharing Ideas and the Graffiti Walls



...We talked of food habits and how do we understand that? How do we avoid a culture which blames the individual and how do we hark towards the structure?

Insidious notion of food that people don't appreciate in terms of biological chemically addictive qualities to sugar and processed food and how we have walked into a trap. Additives in food (origin of Coca Cola). Whether poverty is just about lack of money but also about understating how you can be manipulated by people who want to see you use/buy their food. The point of eating to promote good health, that ethos of healthy food, is lost...



...ended up looking at civic responses to food poverty – community super markets, community allotments, cooperatives – what is the responsibility of local government? Do they prime things or organise these things? Some of these things were preventative but a lot of things are reactive / responsive. Need both things going on...

Who is talking about food poverty – is there a big conversation? How do we change societies view to some of these issues? Who is involved in increasing public awareness – don't think it's a Gov job but how do we get messages across...?

“visible signs are just the surface:

“..univeristies could do more...using that time and place of going into adulthood.”

“what happens when the

‘education is key’

“..We don’t spend a lot of time thinking about values...”

low hopes

low skills, no money ...”

church or WI is not there anymore?”

*“maybe universities
have to ‘dumb down’
and provide courses to
everybody, and about
food?”*

*“once communities come up with solutions
government is backing off... diluted all the
way - it goes from community empowerment
to calling it community engagement”*

“I see good community groups growing”



Event Close

The workshop happened to coincide with the launch of #EndHungerUK: it was decided in plenum to support and join the campaign by posting pictures/tweets of advice or messages written down on paper plates.

Food in Focus

Food Poverty and a Good Society

Edge Hill
University

I4P

Webb Memorial Trust

Prifysgol Aberystwyth
Swansea University

Workshop was held at Swansea University
18 October 2016
Supporting #EndHungerUK

