**Community Centre Conference**

**Round Table Conversations**

A big thank you to all those who attended our Community Conference in March 2017, and for the insights that you shared in the ‘Round Table Discussions’. We just wanted to share this information with you as well.



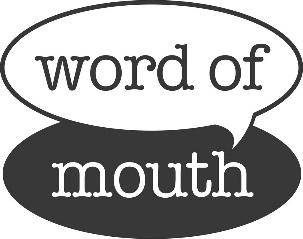
*We asked you about the activities that you carry out across the Borough and the range and Scale that Community and Voluntary sector deliver in Causeway Coast and Glens is amazing, and we asked you to narrow this down to* ***the most popular*** *in your centres, and these seemed to be consistent across the whole Borough. (No particular order)*

**Youth Clubs Summer Schemes 50+ Clubs**

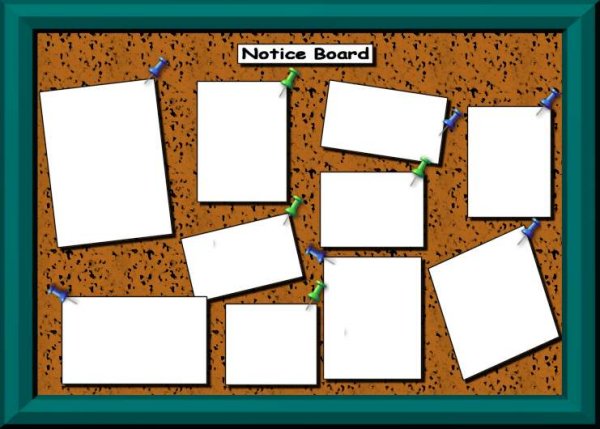
**Women’s Groups Allotments Community Engagement IT Classes**

**Football Community Festivals Luncheon Club**

***We also asked about how you contact your local community and these were the ways that you advised worked most effectively within your communities.***

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*Word of Mouth, Local Schools, Community Volunteers, Local Churches, Social Media, Community Notice Boards*

***We asked you about how you measure the impact of your Community Centre, and not surprisingly when we grouped these together that the vast majority was done on an informal basis and revolved around listening to the Community in various ways.***

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* *The most popular ways to measure impact included was Face to Face, Listening to people, Positive complaints and word of mouth.*
* *Recording numbers, statistics, questionnaires*
* *Social media and in particular feedback on from Facebook*
* *Local councillors were also seen as a source of measuring the impact of projects*

***The next discussion that groups considered was around Peacebuilding and Legacy issues within Communities – we have grouped your comments together into four key areas****.*

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| *Relationship building on normal issues*  *Normal Issues*  *Health and Wellbeing*  *Friends First*  *Respect is Key*  *Cohesion*  *Outreach to schools and education*  *Mixing Cultures/Different Drums*  *Engage across boundaries*  *Respect*  *Peacebuilding needs to start at Primary School*  *Work together to be inclusive and break the mould*  *WW1 Heritage* | *Getting people to come together in a single identity area*  *Imbalance in single identity area*  *Politicians*  *Too much money in wrong areas*  *Diverse People*  *Leaders have a role*  *Elections don’t help*  *Politicians are a challenge* |

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| *Not everyone is at same level*  *Entrenched Attitudes*  *Peer Pressure*  *Breakdown perceptions*  *People can lose business*  *Separate sport cultures*  *Getting people to come to a single identity area*  *Tribalism*  *Rumours and Perceptions*  *One side doesn’t understand*  *Can’t all be right* | *No Shared Space*  *Shared, different cultures*  *Creation of new shared space*  *Distinction between shared space and physical buildings*  *Too many community centres, need more thought given to combining halls*  *Perceptions of buildings*  *Neutral spaces*  *Sharing of commonalities*  *No Shared space* |

***Finally discussions moved towards the practical challenges voluntary committees and staff face running community buildings across the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area.***

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| Paid Staff | Practical Support | Up skilling | Recruiting Volunteers |
| Communication | **Funding Core Costs** | **Small Groups Undervalued** | **Value of Community intervention not recognised** |
| Upgrade and Maintenance | **Running Costs** | **Volunteer Rotas** | **Sustainability** |
| Council Charges too high | **Skills Upgrade** | **Real Listening to Residents** | **Involvement v’s Consultation** |
| Lack of Participation | **Covering Overheads** | **Council funding inconsistent** | **Volunteer legislation** |
| Advice and Support needed | **Insurance Costs** | **Funders Requirements All Different** | **VAT** |
| Getting People to help | **Paid Workers** | **Uncertainty** | **Paid Assistance** |
| Money | **Maintenance** | **Compliance** | **Social Economy** |
| Single Point of Contact needed in Council | **Governance** | **Staff** | **Pensions** |
| Civility | **Training** | **Community Engagement** | **Badly Served by politicians** |

***Thank you for attending the Community Centre Conference and we hope that the findings are of interest to you.***

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*Please take 5 minutes to take our survey so we can plan future training.*