



# The Asset Based Approach in Hawkhill

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# What is an Asset Based Approach?

- Recognises issues but looks at all the positives in a community its “assets”
- The No1 “asset” is always people, but can be anything which can be used to make things better
- Residents decide “their” priorities and are supported / empowered to contribute as equal partners, not passive recipients of services.
- DEVELOPS PEOPLE through experiences, builds resilience, knowledge, self esteem, confidence,

# Easy to Say, How Do You Do It?

- Take time to engage build trust and respect.
  - Support in meaningful ways, as required, not Mon-Frid 9-5pm.
  - Lead from the back
  - Trust in “communities” ability to self direct/problem solve.
  - Help create connections.
  - Dynamically respond to changing conditions.
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- **KEEP IT SIMPLE – DON'T PROFESSIONALISE & DO SOMETHING!!!!**

# Practical Example – Creating A Community Garden



- Entrepreneurial
- Communicate
- Negotiate
- Transforms relationships
- Addresses health
- Builds community
- Community safety

- Improved social connectedness
- Improved self esteem and self confidence ,new groups forming.
- Improved relations between community and statutory agencies meaningful partnerships are achieving results
- Health issues are being more effectively addressed
- Wellbeing is much improved
- Crime and antisocial behaviour is reduced (calls to Police 2012 =132 **2013 =33** Recorded crimes Ave 2010-2012=36/annum, **2013=20**)



# Evaluation

- **We work directly with community on a daily basis,** dynamically impacting positively on situations and constantly assessing & evaluating effectiveness
- Survey of every household in Hawkhill carried out with a 76% response rate - analysed by St Andrews University to establish base line info
- Hawkhill part of the Scottish Community Development Centre report
- Hawkhill featured in Carnegie Trusts report, The Enabling State, Rhetoric to Reality
- **Important to measure - but vital to measures what's important**

# Caution!!!!

- Requires leaders with the vision, willingness and resilience to do things differently. Redefine what success looks like.
- Community decide if they want to embrace the approach, not enforced on them.
- Not a quick fix, this approach has no end point, it evolves with community
- Every day presents challenges, community = chaos, this is normal
- A change in thinking around evaluation is required, where we value outcomes and qualitative measures. The full impact cannot be reflected as a %.