

Who is Your Neighbour?

IT COMES UP (IN CONVERSATION).....

#1 - PROUD OF THIS PLACE

It Comes Up ...

This is the first of four resources. Each is inspired by a subject that can come up in **Who is Your Neighbour?** conversations around South Yorkshire. The subjects are local - and yet similar topics arise in other places. They are familiar - and yet they can be difficult to talk about.

Being proud of 'home' is a story people often tell us. **Who is Your Neighbour?** makes space for exploring that: in our conversations, people can wonder together about what makes them proud of their place and what this says about who they are.

Pride in the place I call home is a feeling that is complex; it can be perplexing; some groups use that to manipulate communities and create division. Genuinely curious conversations open up better ways of talking, listening, working through problems and telling new stories together.

To explore working with us on conversations that might benefit the place **you** call home, get in touch - team@whoisyourneighbour.org.uk

1. **Proud of this Place**
2. Industrial Decline
3. New Arrivals
4. Living the Legacy

Who is Your Neighbour? is a charity (# 1196667) that holds conversations around South Yorkshire and shares learning across the UK. We welcome subjects that can be troubling - like race, immigration and culture - inspiring curiosity in ourselves and others to support change.

Proud of This Place: a South Yorkshire story

Past, Present, Future

Change

Lasting Pride

“my dad - and other people his age -
founded this parish”

~ Anne*, nr Rotherham.

Past, Present, Future

Sometimes, people's pride in their place relates to its **past** and personal memories. There is a conversation to have about beginnings and how good life used to be. This can lead into a discussion about **today's problems**, how things have changed for the worse, **fears for the future** and who to blame.

A different conversation can happen: that **wonders** about how we connect our past to our present; and about **pride as a resource** that shapes the future of our place.

Jack*, born in 1940, was in a conversation we held near Rotherham:

“I remember when we got electricity for the first time, in 1954. My father got an electric radio. We couldn't touch it 'cos he had it up so high, we couldn't reach!”

In the past, in his village, he says:

“Everybody was open and friendly. On Sunday, you'd go to mass, then pub and then the dance hall. You couldn't go wrong! You just couldn't be without friends.”

Change

Jack, Anne and others wondered if the friendliness had “slipped”. The conversations we held in this village happened because some experienced or anticipated **tension** in the area; new people had arrived from Africa and Eastern Europe. Closer reflection and exploration revealed that such change was not a new thing, and that the way the community tolerated change promised hope for the future.

Lasting pride

This group began to explore the legacy of a **complicated and hard-won friendliness** in this place. Jack and others had come to England, to this village, from Ireland. Some remembered being ‘new’, facing prejudice. They had found it “difficult to integrate” but were now very much at **home**.

During World War II, a Prisoner of War Camp was established in this village; while its men were away fighting, people nonetheless welcomed ‘enemy’ soldiers to join them for Mass and local events, “no problem”: the Germans sang “beautiful”.

We reflected on the work that had gone in, over the years, to **welcoming**. It was something to be **proud** of. The **tolerance** people appreciated in the past was still dominant and was something villagers, personally, understood the need for and had embodied.

* names have been changed

What we learned:

In this Rotherham case study, we had been invited in by a **local church leader** who thought his community was struggling to welcome **new arrivals** - people who looked a bit different.

The stories that emerged revolved around memories and inherited memories, going back as far as 1904, of the village being built and parish established. People had space and time to talk, listen and reflect on the real character of this place where they were living with others - in all its nuance and complexity.

“Welcoming” was a word that emerged; it characterised this place.

Our learning has led us to offer conversations based on three basic principles - things we think lay a good foundation that can facilitate change or make space for something good:

Three principles of a Conversation that Matters:

1. Better Out Than In ~ people can speak openly and listen to others do the same
2. Most People are Alright ~ our basic assumption as we hold a space
3. Curiosity is the Change we Look for ~ it can emerge, where there is commitment to 1 and 2

Find out more in [It Comes Up ... # 2 - Industrial Decline](#)

Next steps

Look out for the next subjects in [It Comes Up](#)

- [Industrial Decline](#)
- [New Arrivals](#)
- [Living the Legacy](#)

We're exploring ways of working together with others involved or interested in conversations that support positive change. We'd love to hear from you!

Individuals:

- tell us your #ProudoftthisPlace story
 - in a [form](#)
 - on social media using the #above

Local Groups:

- follow / contact us
- join our [mailing list](#)
- tell us you'd value a conversation in your area

UK partners:

- [email](#) to explore ways of working together
 - browse [our site](#) to find out more
-

Who is Your Neighbour? contact information:

Website - whoisyourneighbour.org.uk

Mailing list - <http://eepurl.com/h-eULb>

Facebook - facebook.com/WhoisYourNeighbourSY

Instagram - instagram.com/who.is.your.neighbour

Twitter - twitter.com/WiYN_SouthYorks

LinkedIn - linkedin.com/company/who-is-your-neighbour



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