This document contains material generated by participants who co-created Town Anywhere: Manchester hosted by Manchester Advocacy Alliance on 3rd November 2025

TOWN ANYWHERE 2038 COMING TO MANCHESTER

Town Anywhere 2038 is a place where everyone can live healthy lives, empowered to speak up for how they want to live and the care they want to draw upon and provide
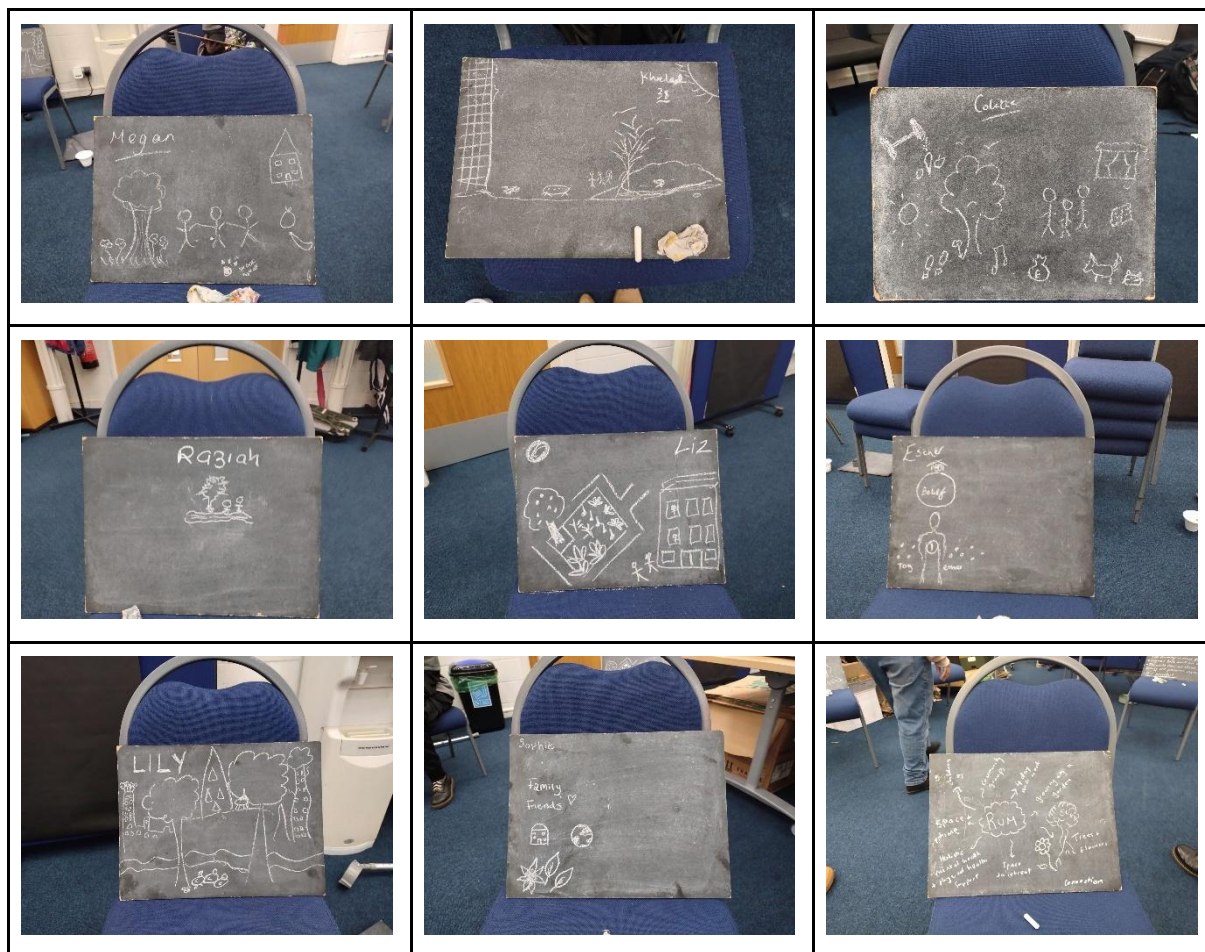
The ideas, requests, and ventures shared in this document were generated in response to this framing and as part of this day-long visioning journey that started with the personal then moved on to the neighbourhood and finally on to the town level.

This document, wherever possible, captures the ideas in people's own words. We have avoided providing our own interpretations in this document, and we will work with participants and others to interpret what has been shared.

Individual level

What is keeping you healthy in 2038?

People drew or wrote their answers to this on individual blackboards:

- Living surrounded by nature - by the sea, being part of an active, supportive and creative community
- Help others - see the results, family and friends around, nature - peace
- Family
- Friends
- Children, community groups, 4 day work week, growing in a garden, trees and flowers, space to retreat, connection, holistic mental and physical health support, space and time
- Friends and family, my community
- Water, dogs, farm, green space, nature, less people, self sufficience, calm, crystals - moon, sun stars
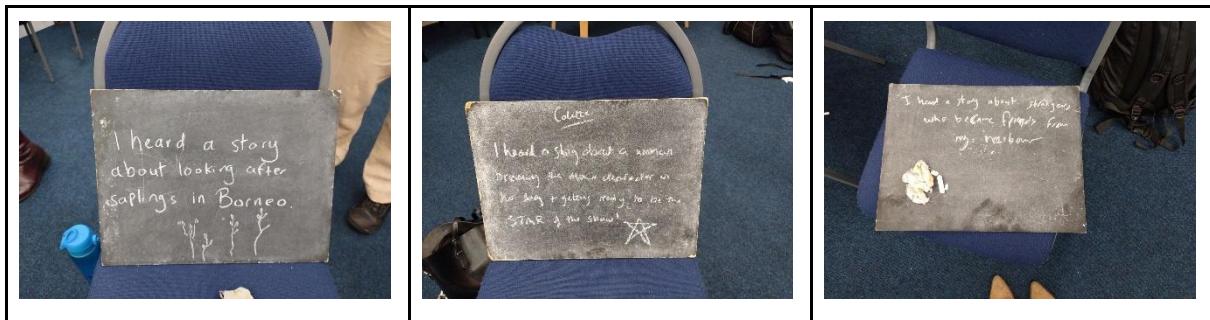
- Having fun on and with purpose
- Connection
- Organic food, creative space, cycle lanes, access to local holistic healthcare, green spaces, good schools, free spaces to go, space to grow
- Belief
- Hope, growth, nurture, access
- Work / life balance, 4 day working week and a dog
- Purpose and clarity
- Everyone is safe on trains and public transport, countries are no longer at war, the economy is more fair, everyone's base needs are met, the world runs clean energy and preserves nature, it is peaceful
- Purpose and freedom, wellbeing, home cooked food, community, space for conversation, activity and exercise, routine

What did people hear stories about?

I heard a story about:
- A stranger helping a family in another country - making sure they were looked after and didn't lose money
- A stranger going out of his way on a completely different route for nothing in return
- Celebrating a birthday at a train depot
- Cooking spaghetti bolognaise with your partner
- Faith, respecting others beliefs while not having any
- Someone's love of food
- Strangers who became friends
- Celebration and gratitude
- A woman becoming the main character in her story and getting ready to be the STAR of the show
- A strong woman who rose from a dysfunctional home to creating a wonderful family and impacting lives
- Hope and gratitude
- Belonging community, working together, safe place
- A community fighting back
- Having a different perspective on theology to the previous fixed mindset
- Resistance for health inequalities
- People coming together even in the most difficult of times
- Having a sense of belonging in this city
- An inspiring mother who has taught and modelled resistance and resilience
- Not conforming to the norms as expected in the workplace

- Adventure and curiosity and a willingness to try new things
- A brilliant trip to an observatory shared by a couple
- A brave young man who worked in a Covid 19 lab for his first job. He helped resistance efforts against the pandemic
- Looking after saplings in Borneo
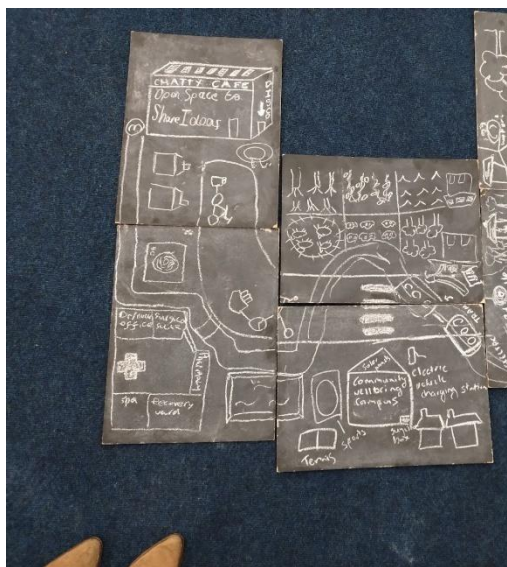- A wedding that brought together friends and family and culture and heritage

After thinking about the town at an individual level, participants formed small neighbourhoods.

Neighbourhood level

What does a place where everyone can live healthy lives, empowered to speak up for how they want to live and the care they want to draw upon and provide look like at a street and neighbourhood level.

Town level

Below are requests and ideas left for the designers and makers of different aspects of a place where everyone can live healthy lives, empowered to speak up for how they want to live and the care they want to draw upon and provide

HEALTH (wellbeing, physical and mental, care, flourishing, living, self esteem)

- Access to wide variety of therapeutic support
- Holistic healthcare - alternative medicines
- Family doctors
- Equal access / awareness
- Prevention, not just treatment
- Individualised and personalised with full database and electronise system - Like AI hospitals or home / community centres have such services
- Advanced - want to be heard, not just seen
- Acknowledge the person as the expert on themselves
- Support to work out what you want and support to communicate it
- Time
- Free advocacy support for all
- Exercise education
- Alternative ways / thinking
- Prevention through publicly funded places for people to exercise e.g. swimming, tennis etc
- Practitioners taught about disparity in healthcare as core training
- Gender / racial bias eradicated
- Mental healthcare / neurodivergent support has the same priority as physical healthcare
- Free dental and eye healthcare
- System orientated around enabling good health and bluezone learning
- LGBTQ+ inclusive
- Support and professionals consistent on health journeys - no change of specialist or GPs
- Range of free and varied mental health services

SERVICES (finding, choosing, giving, sharing, availability, council and voluntary, faith and community groups, outreach)

- Transparency
- Centralised information hub
- Combined community work
- Database of what you need
- No more long application filling -> machine organised, unbiased
- No wrong door
- Accessible
- Neurodivergent support groups and systems
- Health and care training for anyone
- Effective and efficient signposting
- Mechanism to request services being provided that aren't
- Compassion and kindness at forefront of service design
- Nothing about us, without us is for us
- Advocates for anyone that needs one -> no barriers
- Easy routes to support local community voluntarily even if you don't know who wants help
- Better system to help those in need
- More encouragement for volunteer charity work
- Experts with lived experiences
- More funding for domestic and family abuse services including programs like Drive for perpetrator behaviour change

DECISION MAKING (fairness, law, rights, justice, inclusion, governance, advocacy support)

- Open and participatory
- Personal, person-centred, not just a buzzword
- Laws in every day, accessible language
- No jargon
- Everyone treated equally and decision makers regularly changed
- Transformative justice
- Unbiased councils that represent all walks of life
- Consensus drive decision making, co-production and deep democracy
- Remove patriarchal structures
- Prevent billionaires from creating oligarchies
- Speed transparent decision making
- Accessible advocacy irrespective of finances
- Voting age of 16

- True co-production
- People in 'power' should not always get away just because they think they are entitled
- More funding for rehabilitation
- Start with listening
- Proportional Voting system

COMMUNICATION (understanding, speaking up, being heard, support, advocacy, information exchange, networks)

- Suggestion app
- Listening and hearing (including hearing people using BSL) seen as essential skills for all service providers
- Time to explain and discuss proposals with everyone
- Language in formal communication is accessible to all (e.g. no complex legal jargon)
- Signage is universal language - pictures, emojis, braille and auditory
- Easy read only
- Dyslexic friendly text / font
- Self advocacy is the goal
- Needs focus on getting people to listen not just focus on getting more people to speak up
- Person-centred approach
- Children and young people's voices valued and integrated
- Advocacy support at point of need in health and social care
- BSL taught in schools
- Alternative communication styles encouraged - non-verbal
- Community centres become hubs for communicating
- Decriminalising peaceful, non-violent protest

INFRASTRUCTURE (transport, movement, energy, waste, water)

- Renewable energy
- Free transport for all
- All homes have filtered water
- Infrastructure than encourages exercise - accessible
- Lots of water fountains
- Individual and community solar and wind power
- Wheelchair access to everything
- No new plastic things
- Community compost points
- Mobility scooter, bikes and trikes to borrow

- Shared access to vehicles
- Mass transit systems
- Well connected cycle paths and secure bike storage
- Rainwater harvesting
- Grey water system
- Composting toilets
- Self sufficient energy sources
- Repair cafes and DIY
- Safe accessible WCs in public spaces
- Rapid electrical vehicle retrofitting for fossil fuel cars (REVR kits) funded by UK government via a windfall tax on fossil fuel profits (REVR kits convert fossil fuel cars to hybrid electric cars)
- More electric vehicle charging stations in public locations and businesses e.g. in the car park of a local restaurants
- Free/affordable public transport (and reliable / accessible)

PLACES (physical environment, outdoor public spaces, woodlands, water, communal and meeting spaces)

- Free and subsidised exercise and outdoor
- Natural outdoor swimming pool - mental and physical health benefits, growing fruit and veg, and sustainable fishing, cold water swimming
- Community hub for shared resources
- Allotments for everyone
- Available in all living, working and educational spaces
- Access to places you can get lost
- Communal and quiet spaces - choice!
- In community with nature, not against/removed from
- Community orchard
- Care and vehicle restricted
- Tech free zones
- Communal and free outdoor activities and exercise classes
- True wilderness that is unvisitable / restricted
- Community spa
- Community crafts / arts spaces
- Community cinema / theatre
- Forest schools / retreats to learn outdoor skills
- Place for festivals
- Nap rooms

ECONOMY (flow and exchange, goods, community, money, earning)

- Increased minimum wage
- tax/incentives/grants for all, not under 40, all people need same incentives
- Lending library of community resources e.g. tools, books. kitchen equipment
- Universal basic income
- Stop the obsession with growth
- Circular economy
- Gift economy
- Repair cafes
- Removes taxes for extra work all taxes apply for the same
- Tax wealth not work i.e. tax the ultra wealthy fairly - those with wealth/assets over 10,000,00
- Fix the unfair tax system which taxes workers more than ultra wealthy
- Greater value placed on voluntary/unpaid work
- Greater value on care givers, artists, musicians,
- Worldwide economy
- Not profit focussed and nature is not for sale
- Ultra-rick / 1% have to contribute their earnings to global causes
- More windfall taxes on fossil fuels profits
- No billionaires
- Socialised ownership of wealth and resources
- Incentivise innovation
- No predatory lending
- Ban crypto / Stephen Bartlett / Grindset
- Call "side hustles" second jobs again
- More sharing of resources e.g. shared gym membership, rollover leftover credits to others

LEARNING (formal and informal, skills, education, training, reflecting, discovering, experience and knowledge sharing)

- Remove exams
- Use relevant testing - knowledge-based
- Achievement isn't determined through competition
- Highly personalised
- Flexible
- Experiential learning prioritised over exams
- Not age dependant progress
- Achieve as much as you can
- No exam style evaluation

- Learning and skill development is a lifetime vocation
- All skills valued equally
- No more schools or university but a knowledge bank
- Life long learning as standard
- Life skills taught at an early age
- Remove AI - let us stay creative
- People sharing their experience as users not just from providers
- Essential training for all medical staff on listening to people and implementing their choices - and social care
- Easy access to free courses exploring life skills for all ages e.g. speaking up, being heard, listening and being open to others
- Interest based and practical learning not abstract - relevant to current context
- Language exchange spaces
- Teach world history
- Questions and challenges encouraged
- No more boring and ineffective online training
- Looking for lost knowledge - indigenous
- Critical thinking skills - how to trust sources of information
- Take away the algriums , information that is non-censored for everyone

CULTURE (heritage and stories, celebrations, ceremonies, life cycles and events, arts, faith, community)

- A place where everyone can learn and celebrate different cultures
- Space and funding for all ethnicities to participate
- Education through experience
- Events specific to the town
- Spread of traditional and innovative projects
- Everyday celebrations - colourful, just because we're celebrating life
- Annual celebrations for each ethnicity / countries
- Investment in arts particularly in communities less represented in creative industries
- Free theatre and entertainment in communal spaces
- Firepit to share stores and celebrate faith
- Mental health support and life skills at different age milestones e.g. 20, 30, 40 so it is standard
- Encouraging inquisitiveness and understanding different cultures
- Fair and equal access to all faiths and cultures, no exclusionary or prejudiced attitudes
- Could we teach people about dual citizens please, some people have two or more home countries
- Multifaith spaces

- Connections to indigenous cultures / traditions

CREATIVITY (arts, design, making, play, creating, innovating)

- Free and inclusive for all age groups, not only youths
- Collective tasked with making the town 1% better every 3 months
- Free lessons and services
- Skills recognition and encouragement at any stage in life
- Sensory gardens
- Individuality respected, as well as community projects
- Spaces that serve to bring joy not just function
- Embrace creativity
- Youth groups for under 18s
- Public funding of creative groups and projects
- Collaboration between groups
- Creative people in leadership
- Looking at creativity, engineering and planning together to continue open approach for futures
- Hand made fashion and clothes
- Arts given equal priority in schools (compared to STEM subjects
- Access to materials and tech for creating
- Singing groups
- Theatre spaces
- Keep AI art away
- Practice makes perfect - everyone is creative

HOME (shelter, buildings, safe places, shared living, homes, supported accommodation, outreach)

- Remove discrimination based on race/ children
- Rent and mortgage price controls
- More public housing
- Own front door (if wanted)
- Remove discrimination on renting based on no of long term lease
- Ability to stay in own home - community support for shopping, cooking etc
- Green / outdoor space
- All homes have soundproof walls
- Private outdoor space / room for your own food / exercise and fresh air
- Removal of renting deposits and guarantors
- Pets allowed

- Student accommodation include non students - most good accommodation is for students
- Community kitchens
- Choice of decor etc when in support
- Spaces for retreat and support
- Support for carers - paid and unpaid
- Insulated homes (safely)
- Natural buildings - straw bales etc - wool for insulation, removing toxins from homes
- No need for landlords - everyone has a home
- Education about natural cleaning products
- Housing as a human right
- Council housing available to anyone who wants one
- Education on real life world - mortgages in schools and financial responsibilities
- Auction controls (so the price is never unreasonable)
- As said "your home is where you put your hat = like a library subscription card -> live any spot with a map showing vacant places around the area

FOOD (choosing, nutrition, buying, growing, getting, giving, cooking, heating, sharing)

- Variety of wholefoods
- Communal cooking and eating
- Skills share
- Self sufficient
- Environmentally friendly
- Scrap processed foods
- Focus on plant based foods
- Cheap and affordable all basic foods
- Strong consumer protection rights on ingredients and composition
- Community based communal cooking so everyone can have a hot meal
- Organic fruit and veg
- Everyone has access to growing space
- Catered to all cultures ./ dietary requirements
- Utilise surplus food and reduce food waste
- No one goes hungry!
- Support to make food choices when in care (hospital, care homes etc)
- Foraging food nurtured
- Community food processing spaces eg with dehydrating and fermenting stations
- Co-operative food systems
- Improved cooking education
- Produce "enough" no surplus/waste

- Work with nature - grow / plant seasonally
- Animal products consumed with mindful moderation
- Nose to tail eating
- More local allotments
- Affordable, healthy, organic and specialist foods

Residents of Town Anywhere responded to the requests and created a role for themselves to help build the town:

- Creating and running outdoor swimming area - free swimming sessions and exercises classes, sustainable fishing, wildlife habitat, organic veg and herbs for food, mental and physical health improvements and support
- Humanitarian and safeguarding social scientist
- Events co-ordinator for outside spaces, walks and talks, swims, areas and times for quiet / no events, listening to what people want
- Creative change maker facilitator
- Healthcare structure advisor / researcher
- Helping different groups come together to share stories and beliefs
- I can show people how to cook nutritious food that is tasty and hearty - like my "nomlette"
- Communication Officer for growth
- Education coordinator
- Professional "culture vulture" learning and collaborating to improve happiness index
- Upcycler finding new uses for old things
- Educator / Creativity consultant
- Community events facilitator
- Food safety and security advocate and expert
- Community grower
- Community kitchen worker
- Health sector developer / pioneer improvement idea even creative ideas, fintetuning of system and personalisation of the provided services
- Town Convener - faciitator of participatory decision making
- Mediator - during public discourse, people can request mediator to help clarify and summarise ideas + time
- Accessible communication champion
- Water / energy movement specialist
- Designing accessible signage / mediator
- Listener and listening facilitator - helping people hear what people want to say
- Learning support worker / teaching assistant working with children with learning disabilities

People with different roles joined together to vision, and make ventures for the Town. Each venture filled in a charter.

Wishing Well Centre
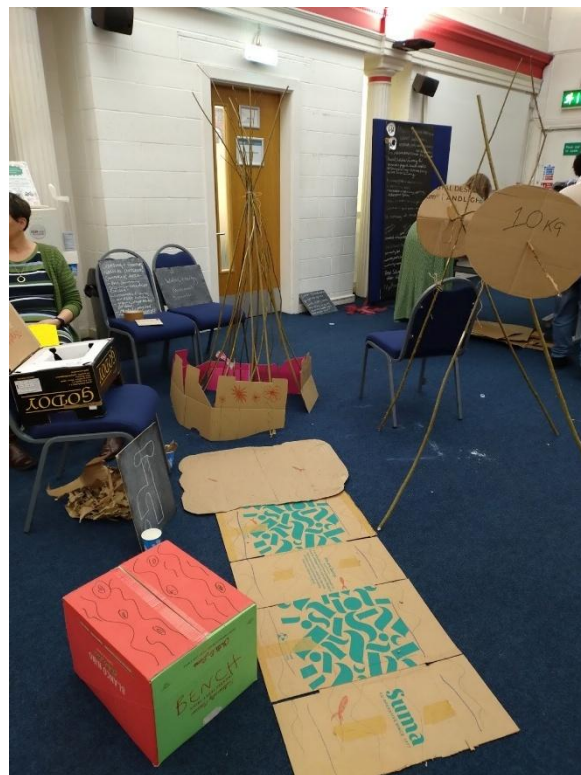
What is overarching purpose of your project

Mental physical health in the outdoors that is accessible to all

Whose needs does it meet and how?

Everyone - especially those would not usually excess the outdoors. Hydration and toilets!!

Variety of outdoor facilities, activities and classes. Water fountain. Health and fitness Building belonging and community.

How does it contribute to a place where everyone can live healthy lives, empowered to speak up for how they want to live and the care they want to draw upon and provide?

Co-produce schedule of activities for people that use the outdoor leisure centre
Design of a program for disability
Neurodivergent friendly
All ages and activities leads celebrated

Who works here? For money? For another kind of exchange?

Some paid staff to manage Health and Safety and Technical facility stuff. Volunteers with skills to share i.e Foraging, hiking, pilates

What kind of site do you need ?

Large natural open space with a central building to group and run activities.
Access to fresh drinking water Multiple composite toilets

Food Sovereignty

What is overarching purpose of your project

To grow, educate and inspire so all have access to healthy, organic and nutritious foods

Whose needs does it meet and how?

Everyone - to provide nutrition healthy meals, provide basic life skills and share skills

How does it contribute to a place where everyone can live healthy lives, empowered to speak up for how they want to live and the care they want to draw upon and provide?

Healthy food = Healthy living
Food is the foundation for health and wellbeing
Growing food and connecting to nature
Good for mental and physical health

Who works here? For money? For another kind of exchange?

Mixture of both. Leaders are paid
Support volunteers

What kind of site do you need ?

Open space
Community gardens
Structure that can be managed e.g marquee, bell tent

Anywhere Forest School

What is overarching purpose of your project

 Experiential learning for all ages

Whose needs does it meet and how?

Children, Young adults, Seniors
Connect with nature and each other
Learning by doing I.e linking place-based
learning to classroom learning

**How does it contribute to a place where
everyone can live healthy lives, empowered
to speak up for how they want to live and
the care they want to draw upon and
provide?**

Circle time encourages confidence to share
feelings and opinions
Developes real world skills and
intergenerational respect

**Who works here? For money? For another
kind of exchange?**

Paid facilitators (Safe guarding etc)
Volunteers sharing their experiences

What kind of site do you need ?

Forest! With access to a variety of terrain E.g
woodlands, rivers, reservoirs

Campfire Arts

What is overarching purpose of your project
To share stories, Spread hope and joy
Create community and belonging
Expressing our culture and heritage through those shared parts

Whose needs does it meet and how?
Everyone - Combat loneliness
Isolation
Improve mental health
Therapeutic space
Entertainment and fun

How does it contribute to a place where everyone can live healthy lives, empowered to speak up for how they want to live and the care they want to draw upon and provide?
Any creating space for people with difference needs and ability to have their voices heard
Meeting place

Who works here? For money? For another kind of exchange?
Paid but maybe but maybe unconventional means
Space to live, Food, gifts
Is there currency in the town?

What kind of site do you need ?
Open space outside
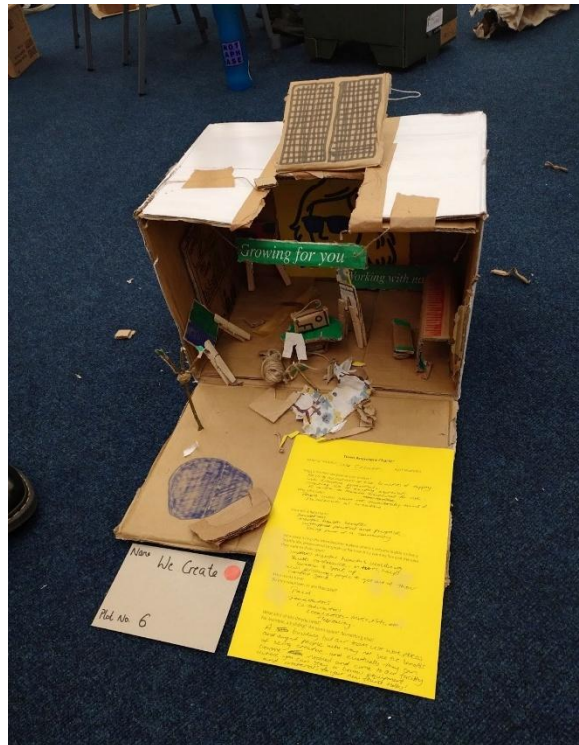Rain cover to be taken up and down as per
 Outdoor theatre

We Create

What is overarching purpose of your project
Raising awareness of the benefits of therapy into creative potential
Making use of existing materials
A centre to donate materials for use

Whose needs does it meet and how?
People who would not traditionally think of themselves as creative
Education
Mental health benefits
Untapped potential and purpose
Being part of a community

How does it contribute to a place where everyone can live healthy lives, empowered to speak up for how they want to live and the care they want to draw upon and provide?
Improve mental health wellbeing
Build confidence, in turn helps someone to speak up,
Will encourage people to get out of their comfort Zone

Who works here? For money? For another kind of exchange?
Paid
Facilitators
Coordinators
Local Artists, - music, Arts, etc.
Hospitality

What kind of site do you need ?
A building but our team visits workplaces and targets people who may not see the benefits of being creative and eventually they can become involved and come to our facility where you can stay or borrow equipment and materials for your new found hobby.

The Anti-Growth Economy

What is overarching purpose of your project
Changing the attitude to economic growth
Regulate the values, e.g. accepting a 'grindset ' lifestyle when really we ought to be addressing income inequality and oppression.

Whose needs does it meet and how?
Everyone domestically and internationally. Especially the future generations

It will redefine what a successful generation looks like away from pointless profit and endless growth towards sustainability and success being rated in living standards.

How does it contribute to a place where everyone can live healthy lives, empowered to speak up for how they want to live and the care they want to draw upon and provide?
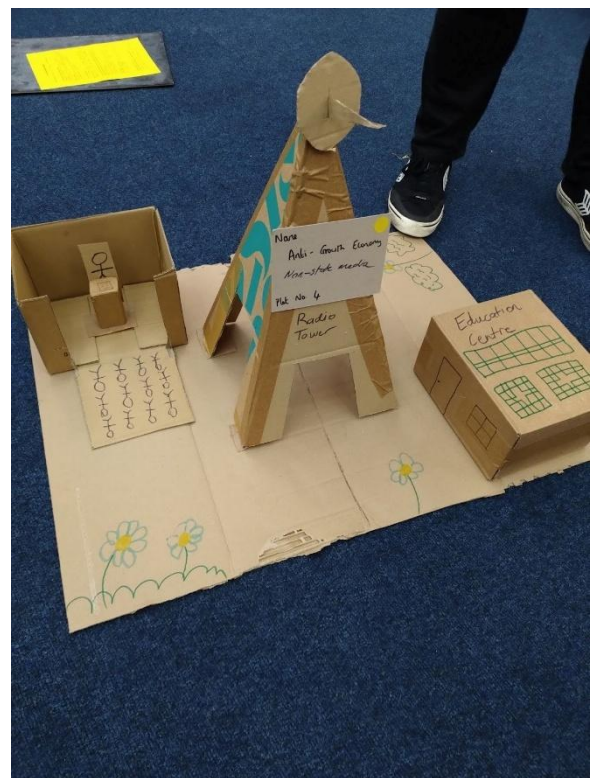Raise living standards
Arrest Environmental decline
Enable people to understand, articulate and campaign for economic reform through fair wealth redistribution.

Who works here? For money? For another kind of exchange?
Economists, Campaigners, people with lived experience economic hardship

What kind of site do you need ?
Multiple multi use buildings including an education centre, debate venue and broadcasting towers

The Town Cradle

What is overarching purpose of your project
Public discourse and community decision making
Transparency, collaborative, co productive

Whose needs does it meet and how?
Everyone who lives in the town, especially seldom heard voices who also own this space. Give a space to cradle new ideas, solutions and conflicts, town mediators and convenors are based here

How does it contribute to a place where everyone can live healthy lives, empowered to speak up for how they want to live and the care they want to draw upon and provide?
It is equitable and facilitates participatory democracy, it facilitates co-production.

Who works here? For money? For another kind of exchange?
Town mediators, conveners and people who foster understanding.

What kind of site do you need ?
A centrepiece in the middle of town.
The building is deliberately glass/ transparent. The building walls will frame everything that is important in deliberations. The nest on the roof signifies a birthplace.

'Communication for all' Circle

What is overarching purpose of your project
To create a safe place which facilitates increasing accessible communication through listening.

Whose needs does it meet and how?
Providers and decision makers (primarily)
Increase understanding of how different people communicate

**How does it contribute to a fair, regenerative
and thriving town that cares for future generations of all beings?**
If we don't start with listening, then we are making assumptions, truly accessible communications start with the person.

Who works here? For money? For another kind of exchange?
Communication facilitates and champions with lived experience of certain communication methods.
Paid roles to highlight the value of these positions.

What kind of site do you need ?
A protected shelter with good access from all directions.The design is circular to reflect a continuous process of learning and sharing and that we are not ticking a box

Growth

What is overarching purpose of your project

To create better patient and practitioner interaction by creating a healthcare database that allows professionals more time to listen and treat patients without judgement.

To create more individualised and personalised treatments and to monitor healthy individuals to keep fit.
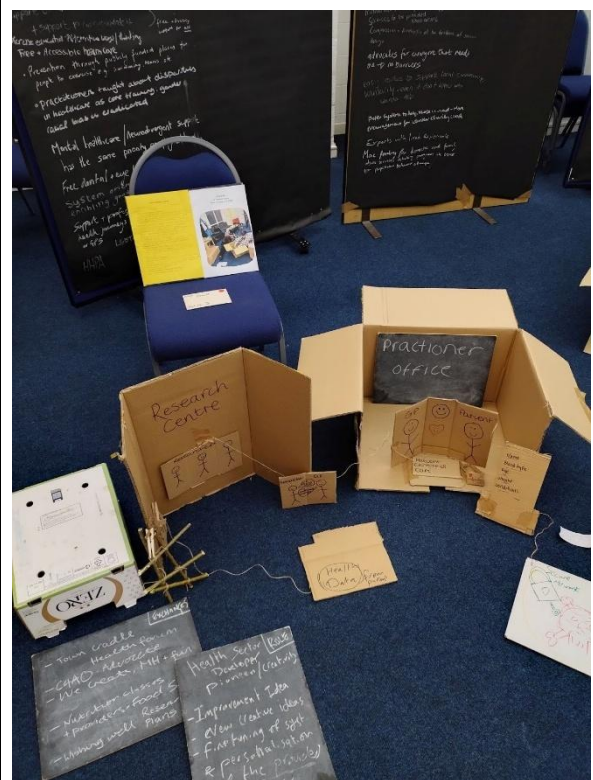
Decrease need for documentation by highly automated system

Whose needs does it meet and how?

Everyone who access healthcare services

Allow professionals more knowledge and subsequently more time with patients to reduce patients dismissal.

Better health, more responsive illnesses by personal medications

How does it contribute to a place where everyone can live healthy lives, empowered to speak up for how they want to live and the care they want to draw upon and provide?

People have more positive healthcare experiences and hopefully receive care treatment and diagnosis quicker and with ease.

Who works here? For money? For another kind of exchange?

Healthcare facilitators, GP, Nurses etc.

Researchers paid

Development team paid

Patients can opt into research

What kind of site do you need ?

An interconnected service