

Electing the Future March 18th 2015 World Café Conversations

Overview

The "World Café" is a structured conversational process intended to facilitate open and intimate discussion, and link ideas within a larger group to access the collective wisdom in the room. At the Electing the Future event participants moved between a series of topics and tables where they discussed:

- 1. What we cherished about our past (focusing on Tooting)
- 2. Concerns for the present
- 3. Wishes for the future

A café ambience was created in order to facilitate conversation. Individuals were encouraged to speak and listen and a TTT host co- captured the essence of those discussions on paper as short actions

After the wishes, participants were given 5 dots and invited to vote on the action they felt most passionate about. The dots were counted and in true world café style, narrated back to the audience. These formed the basis of discussion with our panel of political candidates and representatives.

Since our earliest ancestors gathered in circles around the warmth of a fire, talking together has been our primary means for discovering common interests, sharing knowledge, imagining the future, and cooperating to survive and thrive.

The natural cross-pollination of relationships, ideas, and meaning as people moved from one conversation to others enabled us to learn, explore possibilities, and co-create a future together.

From this perspective, conversations are action that some will take away and bring to life.

Concerns for the Future and dot outcome

Emergent Themes	Details	Dots
Flourishing Economy- locally focused		47
	Focus on benefits to community Move away from money as a driver	16
	Environmental sustainability Local assets 1) Community control of the café on Tooting Common	15
	Local and independent business French style rule making majority of businesses remain independent	14
	Local assets 2) Have a cinema Perhaps sharing with the Bingo More shared spaces	9
	Protect broad mix of people, shops, spaces, don't price out	9

	the working class	
Community		46
	Stronger and safer neighborhoods	15
	Play out in streets	
	Weekly swap stuff	
	Pick up litter	
	A Thriving Community	13
	A fully functioning community	
	Tooting as a place to fully live for all	
	With a local focus for work, rest and play	
	Activism	11
	Community cohesion & Activism	
	More people as activists	
	Visibly proactive	
	Other hustings	
	Connection with wider environmental action- water aid,	
	forests	
	Sense of community	7
	Emphasis on commonalities	'
	What can be done to establish community?	
	People Focused Planning	
	Grass roots creative planning	
	Focus on benefits to community, move away from money as	
	a driver	
Planning focused	I on community needs	31
	Town- scaping	15
		15
	Encourage wellbeing by designing for people (planning and architecture)	
	Especially pedestrianized streets (some side streets?)	10
	Grass roots	16
	Creative planning	
	Focus on the benefits to community, move away from	
Clean Environme	money as a driver	24
Clean Environme		24
	Less focus on cars and vehicles	16
	Car free streets	
	Ban ridiculous SUV's and large cars	
	Natural planet	8
	Air quality	
	Environmental protection	
	Safety	
Green Spaces		11
	Greening the environment	8
	More green beauty in our streets	
	We look up not down	
		1
	Sustainability	3