**Date: 24/11/2020**

**Duration:** 01:46:11

**Interviewer:** \*Project introduction\*

**Participant:** Yup, okay.

**Interviewer:** And my first question is the, what is the name of your group?

**Participant:** Urr, \*laughs\* if I, it’s it’s it’s rather complex actually urr because if I can explain, [CITY NAME 1] is actually split by, its got five rivers and the town is split urr by these by these rivers. Urr and it divides urr there’s only one bridge across and the south of the river urr the main road runs to places like [TOWN NAME 1], [TOWN NAME 2] urr but there’s only one bridge cross and an ancient bridge. So south of the river is quite separate from the city and its [LANDMARK] if you know – if you know anything about [CITY NAME 1].

**Interviewer:** No.

**Participant:** So there’s natural geographic division, and that division is [AREA NAME 1] and [AREA NAME 1] urr, it, local government changed in 1974, urr and urr it set up a a district council urr and the area covered the city urr some villages outside urr and urr and of course [AREA NAME 1] in the south. But when it set this up, [AREA NAME 1]set up a a neighbourhood council and it was envisaged that this would become a parish council. However, it never did. And that was in ’74 and it kept in place and it’s mainly fought planning issues actually. But when COVID came along, urr, I, my specialism is, I was actually [DESCRIPTION OF EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND]. Urr and I’d been, I’d been a member of this [AREA NAME 1] neighbourhood association for a quite a a long time actually. Urr from probably about 1981 but before then I was [OCCUPATION] to [CITY NAME 1] district council and involved in – so planning matters are really in my in my genes and in fact a lot of my contemporaries became planning inspectors. Urr, urr people who were doing master planning etc. And urr I’m actually the [NAME OF POSITION] of [AREA NAME 1] neighbourhood’s association. It’s a very special role in dealing with planning issues. And there comes some very difficult planning issues some of which no-one’s very happy to have a huge amount of houses dumped on the south of the river. Partly because of the connection with the city and its single bridge it simply what everybody says – it will not take that traffic. We’ve also got the district hospital as well and urr, I urr I went to enquires because I’m used to that sort of thing.

When COVID came up I urr I talked to the chairman and said, “look, urr there are two other organisations, both of which are connected to the parish church in [AREA NAME 1],” which is very strong indeed, and I spoke to the warden and said, “look, we shouldn’t work separately, we should work together to provide facilities for people who are urr quarantine, people who need prescriptions and anything else that may arise.” Urr and there was an immediate rapport, urr we shared the resources, we asked for people to volunteer and it was linked in the invitation to urr join. It came from actually via [COUNTRY NAME 1] council and I think that came down from the government itself who said, “we need all those voluntary people to go out and help people, the elderly who are isolated, those people who can’t get around, the vulnerable.” And we started getting urm, notes urr which we pooled, some would just say, you know, “Mrs Jones in in [ROAD NAME 1] wants, is desperate, she she can’t go out shopping,” and we had, by then we had a [? garner 05:36] of volunteers, and we just managed that.

Urm, and urr it we had some surprising things actually because it wasn’t just the question of dealing with people’s shopping and medical prescriptions proved to be a real problem. Because you can’t get a prescription unless it’s counter signed by urr a GP – do you understand that? I don’t – how long have you lived here [INTERVIEWER NAME]? Do you have GP? You’re in [CITY NAME 2], aren’t you?

**Interviewer:** Yes, yes. I don’t have at the moment, but I already had because I lived for one year in [CITY NAME 3], so I know what it is.

**Participant:** Oh right, so you know what the system is and it, and in actual fact it went savagely wrong. And we have one surgery which is just south of the river but to get to it we’ve got a thing called [ROAD NAME 1] and it’s about quarter of a mile long and it’s raised and it goes across the floodplain because [CITY NAME 1] has a massive history of being flooded even the great cathedrals being flooded and they’re really worried about it now because of climate change. Urm, but this was fifty percent of the patients at this general practice, which also had nurses and you know, minor auxiliary operation things that they could do urr was service great chunk of the population. And then I was a bit concerned actually and I just happened to need, I need a prescription and went down there, and it was totally closed, they’d shut it completely. So, there was all these people with no access! What did they do? And in actual fact we, they… they said, “well you’re the patient, you’re on our group on our steering group, can you deal with it?” and fortunately there’s a lady I knew in [AREA NAME 1] who’s a member of the British Medical Association and I went to her and said, “this will not do,” and I done some checks and it was, what they’d done is transfer all the facilities and moved all the doctors up there, it was too small. They could only house two doctors, it took a change of bus, the bus were only running a n hour with COVID so it was not a good situation and it would have taken an elderly person – it could have taken them two hours, they couldn’t have managed that. They couldn’t have known whether the bus – I said, “hey, hang on, this has got to stop.”

And we got that changed, and in actual fact we write to the surgery and we didn’t assume it was them that was at fault, we said, “look, we’re a volunteer group, what can we do? First of all, we can collect prescriptions.” So, we put notices all over south of the river saying, “if you can’t get there, you ring us up and we’ll go and deal with this.” Urr, but the letter never got to them. Urr, but we then got it closed and strangely enough the surgery rang me up and said, “we’ve now got your letter, oh, it’s so wonderful we’re now getting blamed,” were getting brick bats thrown at them because of this problem, and suddenly they’ve opened this letter from the group south of the river saying, “how can we help the surgery.” And so, we, we put notices all over everywhere, we continued to collect prescripts and you know, we established a relationship with the local general practice. So, you know, we actually got involved in some quite surprising things that we never ever expected to get involved with. But we actually sorted that one.

And there were some, some strange things happen, and you know, [INTERVIEWER NAME] can I ask you, is this the kind of thing that you’re interested in?

**Interviewer:** Yes of course, yes.

**Participant:** Yeah okay, I don’t want to ramble on and just boring you with.

**Interviewer:** No, no, no.

**Participant:** But the county council appointed in the south, because [COUNTY NAME 1] is a strange, strange place. It has the army right – its called [LANDMARK NAME], that’s where the army is, they’re camped right across it. And it’s very big and you can hear, you know, you can hear the heavy guns firing form my house. So, urm… its completely split. And and the county’s well, well aware of that. There’s no trains you can get, well you can get to the main county council building which is in [TOWN NAME 3] but there’s no trains from to the probably to the biggest town in [COUNTY NAME 1] which is now an independent urr… and independent authority and that’s [TOWN NAME 2]. But you can’t get there. So, it it’s a very cut off. And they appointed a, and I always forget the name of his title, but he was a… a community liaison manager for the south. And I think that was a brilliant appointment I mean they don’t get an applause, [COUNTY NAME 1] council don’t because they’re and communicators. But they put in the south this guy who actually was a good communicator. Urm, and so he gets things through to us and he was very good in guiding the way that we actually went. Urm… urr… talking about some strange things that happened. We dealt with a lot of things, in fact we had a very famous guy in [AREA NAME 1], he lived in [AREA NAME 1] and he was the children’s commission, and he got COVID and he was very dangerously ill and his daughter lived in in [COUNTY NAME 2] and she wanted to contact her father and she said – you know, she was in a distressed state, and we’d obviously got some contact with because some of the nurses and doctors they all live close to the hospital south of the river. And we managed to get her a nurse contact who was you know, in in in the urr in the COVID part of the hospital and we managed to get a message from the daughter urr to him and urr he actually recovered, which was wonderful. And we got this letter which said, “you don’t know what that message meant to me. I was on my last legs, my morale was going down, and then I got this letter from my daughter,” you know, and it cheered him up and he recovered, he recovered, you know. So, we were absolutely delighted about the role that we’d actually played with that.

And we had a number of people who just wanted to talk to people. And the strange thing was that we had a period when it all started and it seemed to be going extremely well, some of the people who’d volunteered, volunteered for other groups so that, you know they said, “oh, we’ve got some [? unclear 13:50]” and we couldn’t we couldn’t use them all we thought, “oh gosh,” you know, if people offered to help you need to deploy them, or at least keep contact with them. Because if you don’t do that you will actually loose them. And it’s too valuable. So, you you need to keep your sort of people who’d volunteered in contact. And we did have Zooms, we set up Zooms where anybody who wanted to come to the Zoom could, I mean I think we had a Zoom meeting with forty people on it, you know, and it includes some of those agencies who provided, who who provided food parcels. Well the food parcels were not – we don’t make those up, urm… they were urr the council. We have Trussell Trust here which does do food parcels, it helps with unfortunately very sadly we’ve got people who are homeless so urr, oh, what’s the organisation called? The church, the church they urm, Salvation Army.

**Interviewer:** Your camera went off.

**Interviewer:** Oh, did it, I must have, there we go, we’re back on again. Urm… and urr, you know well, they they had a Zoom meeting and this Zoom meeting was saying well, things were getting better and for some reason the people that we, we expected people to come back say in the next week, but gradually it tapered off and what actually happened, was what I’ve called adoption. And this adoption system, we didn’t even set it up, it just created itself. And there, what actually happened was people would go and say, “oh, I’ve come to do your shopping,” we had a system for checking that people who were going were known, but a lot of them were members of the church, were very local. They had to sign a form we had to be certain that they were alright. And of course, everybody operated under COVID regulations.

We didn’t have any complex urr, system of paying for food which was, you know, was, urr some, the council did set up a complex thing where they gave people a… an account with two hundred pounds on it and then the council claimed it back form the person who was receiving the shopping. And it was, it was more complicated than it really needed to be. All we did was say we haven’t got any money all we did was was say, we can pay for it and well come back and claim it from you. Or they’d say, “oh that’s alright, here’s my card,” which was usually quite awkward because they’d have to give you their number, but in fact some of the shops urr would actually ring up for the numbers, so you’d take it and put it in and they’d. So, you know we operated a degree of security concerning, concerning money.

But in actual fact the people who we were helping, the next week, they would do the ringing up and they’d say urm… you know, “Jane thank you for coming, could you do some more shopping with me?” And gradually, then we got that as each week they’d go and they became their friend, you know, as they were going to do the shopping, which is enormous community spirit.

**Interviewer:** How many people were involved?

**Participant:** Sorry?

**Interviewer:** How many people were involved in the group?

**Participant:** In the group we had about urm, well there was half a dozen people who were, who were basically in the key group. Hello, something’s – ah there you are you’re back, something. Urr urr so we had we had a stirring group, initially it was myself and the church warden. Urm and we decided urr you know, we needed a, we needed a group to think about what we were doing. So, it had proper management we set up this management, our own management system and urr, we all got on extremely well, you know. And then we had about twenty-five people on the list.

**Interviewer:** How did you get them? How did you find the volunteers?

**Participant:** Urr, well the Church put notices up, urr we had people we have, you know, we had meetings in [AREA NAME 1] so we rang some people up, there are three community organisations are known so we got contacted by people saying, “can we help?” you know, “what can we do?” And we’d say, “well, we’ve got a group, would you like to join the group?” “Oh, oh, yes, we’d be delighted to do that.” So, the community spirit was utterly amazing. Urm it actually came to the point where the county group called a Zoom meeting and obviously there was, I think myself and the church warden attended that. And the question was, well we seem to have been sorting things out and the question of prescriptions, either the doctor’s surgery or the pharmacists themselves were dealing with it, so everything was working like clockwork. But what do we do now? And urr, it this what developed was utterly – it’s almost beyond belief what developed and we’re continuing with it.

But urm, I, the, I was in, my garden had a pear tree and it never had – very few pears on it. This last year, in this last summer it was absolutely loaded with them. And I’d seen food parcels and they were full – these food parcels had got urm you know it got no fresh food in them. And I thought well surely, urm. And you know, it’s a very much an urban thing, lots of people, houses and gardens and gardening is a a big thing south of the river, there’s garden societies and people grow things. And I spoke to the, I thought, why, you know, I can’t eat all of these, couldn’t we distribute these and put them into food parcels, because they’re very short of fresh food. And I spoke, I spoke to the community manager and I said there’s all these people with gardens and allotments, we could do something about cultivating this and fresh food. And the people who were making the food parcels up, we talked to them and they said, “that’s a great idea, oh, you should go with that.” And we rang one or two churches up and they said, “that’s a great idea.” So, we urr urm we formed steering group of six and urm I I, [? know a few cartoonists 22:31] for one thing and so, urr you now, and I do, I do write and do.

And so we had a, we had a meeting as to whether we should go ahead with this, and it was absolutely unanimous and people said, “yes, we’ll do this, we’ll do this,” and basically we formed urr, we formed this idea where we’d have a stall once a week. And you could come, people would bring produce from their garden and it was free, but we said to people who, who might just like the idea what to support it, you know, you can just give a donation, we won’t even ask you for it. And the church has a very nice green next to the parish hall and we set up these two tents, one which was an administrative one, urr and we decided we’d distribute leaflets, and we call this thing, ‘[GROUP INITIATIVE NAME].’ And urr, we put notices through everybody’s door, but the graphics were really crucial. We simply, we had a great idea which was, there are certain things that a lot of people grow, I mean beans, green beans, courgettes, marrows, potatoes things like that. And two of the people on the steering group, one is an agricultural scientist, and his wife is very keen on cooking. And they said, “oh, we should put, we should put recipes for these things that people are growing.” So, we produced this, we got, we got funding, well we got sponsorship from a local printer, who said, “this is a great idea.” And you know we produced this little leaflet and on the back were menus, a menu of three things that you could actually make. And we did that, and we did that every week that we’d take certain things that people grew and it soon grew that we didn’t just urr, we had herbs that you could get, people brought pot plants, a a lady came and did a painting. And it became a big social event, and it ran for ten weeks. And we did a survey and and we were making in donations, we were making £80 a week. We didn’t ask anybody. Urm so urr you know, and all the stuff went, what we got that was surplus went to people who were making, there was a lady who said, “ohh, I need some apples, I’m making pies for some poor families in my road, can I have some apples.” So, we supplied people like that.

And what we didn’t know is when we started, would anyone supply us, but in actual fact I had urr a relative who had a big apple tree, loads of apples, and he said, “you can have anything you want, no, no we’ll support this.” Urr, a urr doctor friend had a – very keen guy, huge allotment, lives in a virtual manor house, he said, “you come to me on Friday and I’ll give you potatoes and everything.” So, we got these supplies in and people turned up with bags with things to put on the stall. You know, it was incredible. The market stall because we were did have a market – they paled into insignificance at all this stuff and it was really organic food., And it ran for ten weeks. And in fact, [COUNTY NAME 1] county council were so impressed mind, they thought it was wonderful. And it wasn’t just about urr people getting fresh fruit and vegetables it became a really good social event. And of course everybody had to sign in because of COVID and we had we had two gazeboes one of which was administrative, administrative, and we had urm, you could get the urm recipes for what we’d done for previous weeks. And I mean one person even carved a crocodile, carved cucumber into a crocodile, which was great fun. And people bring the kids along, and the kids, “oh we like this,” and it became, and it became an event which glued the community together.

And in actual fact we’ve been asked to continue with it and our next project we’ve been asked to look at Christmas and at least have, we’re going to have two days one on the because it’s not only split by the river, it’s split west and East. Urm the eastern place has a beautiful old church that was part of – it was part of a poor house church but it’s wonderful in side and we can use that for urr offering free toys and things for children, urm and the church are going to decorate it up and we’ve got the parish hall, so we’ve got that. So, we’re having a Christmas thing and people want this whole idea of [AREA NAME 1] Harvest Festival.

But also, we’ve had a lot of enquiries from outside of [CITY NAME 1], and saying, “we’ve heard about this [GROUP INITIATIVE NAME], this sounds wonderful,” you know, “oh how do you do it? How do you set it up?” And actually, I’m writing a guide at the moment, how you set this thing up. Urr, because you have to carry insurance, if you want a grant from the councils and I think councils will, you must carry insurance and of course the insurance. So, all of these things need putting down. And people need to be told, “don’t charge for things,” you know, just let people you know, donate, don’t charge for things. And link, link what you get with recipes, we’ve got all the artwork for doing and we’re going to out that online so that other communities can come together to do this thing. Urm, I, I can’t believe it. I’m just aghast at what happened.

**Interviewer:** What is – sorry.

**Participant:** People - it went on for ten Saturdays until late in September and we always used all the produce. I mean you it was very strange, you know we’ve got two allotments, one a big one and one a smaller one but we got very little produce from that, most of it came from people’s back gardens.

**Interviewer:** Impressive.

**Participant:** It is. But its created this network that exists and people, you know, this is almost the oil in the engine this [GROUP INITIATIVE NAME] thing, and they want that to continue and people said how much the enjoyed that they loved coming to it. And it was, the guy who’s the community engagement manager, that’s what his title is – I’ve remembered what it’s called now. He was, he was full of it, you know he said, “this is more than just fresh food, this is engaging the community, one person being linked to anther to help each other,” he said, “you’re community is going to thrive with this.” And boy, was he right, was he right.

**Interviewer:** What is the situation with the group currently, the situation with the group?

**Participant:** At the present time?

**Interviewer:** At the present time, yes.

**Participant:** Well, we’ve got a Zoom meeting on Thursday.

**Interviewer:** You have regular meetings?

**Participant:** Oh, yes, we use Zoom, yes, we use Zoom. And we deciding that we’re having this Christmas thing you see and we thought, well we did a questionnaire at the very last meeting and said, “do you want this to continue,” urr and I think we had eighty people turn up and urr they had a questionnaire, “do you want this to continue?” and guess what the vote was one hundred percent in favour.

**Interviewer:** Okay.

**Participant:** Not a single person wanted this to stop. So, we thought we’ll, we need, you know, we need to do something because obviously we’re all stuck with COVID at the moment. But it, you now this is a shorter thing and people know who their neighbours are, you know, this this network has set up its own network anyway.

**Interviewer:** And what geographical area do you cover?

**Participant:** Sorry?

**Interviewer:** What geographical area has the group covered?

**Participant:** Urr, well it’s south, south south of the River, we said specially its about eight thousand people.

**Interviewer:** Eight thousand okay.

**Participant:** Yep, yep, we’re covering about eight thousand people urr we have at the moment we have one county [COUNTY NAME 1] councillor who – brilliant, he was absolutely behind it a hundred percent and he said, “I’ll get a grant, he said, you should have a grant.” It cost £550 to actually set it up. Urr and in in actual fact we we came out with a profit, the profit with just donations of about £1200. And some, the Eastern part of it has really got. Well the church hall, the old church is not that big, and you can’t, on, in some ways it’s not, it’s not too suitable. Urm… and the church on the West side has got a nice open space so we bought for the community a very large gazebo that the community can use for events and things. So, it’s been massively urr beneficial. So, we’re keeping, you know, we’re keeping it going and there’s three group, there’s the Parish Church Council, urr, and the Parish Church Council also have a neighbourhood – it’s called [AREA NAME 1] community network. And then there’s a group which I’m [NAME OF POSITION] of which is [AREA NAME 1] Neighbourhood Association. And we’ve decided we’re going to amalgamate, so bit by bit it’s going to pull all three, there is a project to pull it together. We’re talking about getting asocial work er south of the river. So, you know, it’s really sort of developing out of this urr, this community drive to sort of help people during COVID.

**Interviewer:** So, have you tried to get official recognition for example becoming a charity r a company in the process?

**Participant:** Urm, we, I mean we haven’t. I there were some problems in that banks require a, urr, because obviously you get donations of that sort of money and you’ve got to pay, I mean I think we…. The cost of the of printing which the printer did at half price was about £270, so we’re handling a fair bit of, not ha’pennies and pennies, urr urr and even banking, you know, when you get £80 in ha’pennies and pennies its huge chunks of money so that becomes a bit, you have to, you know, sort of handle that. Urr, but urm, it is necessary with a bank to have a constitution. And the parish church council is constituted but of course it’s a religious group, urr and it it couldn’t, it, the church said, “no, you cannot deal with those funds.” But the neighbourhood association was constituted, it had a constitution that said that everybody who lives south of the river and is urr of voting age, so has a vote. So, all the people who volunteer were from south of the river and were automatically members of the neighbourhood association and we did have a bank account. So, it was an obvious, we said, “no, no, we’ll take that over, urr, we’ll help the thing along.” So urm, you know, it it was fortuitous that the neighbourhood association was constituted and set up. Urm and it could get insurance and all of these sorts of things. This is where, you know, this is where we need to say to people who want to set this up, we need to say to them, “yes, but this is what you need to do.” Urr but we will amalgamate we’ve got to amalgamate the three. There is a system that [COUNTY NAME 1] county has of giving groups, community groups urr grants. Urr and we benefited from that. Its unfortunately the bank we’ve got is not that cooperative I have to say. And unfortunately, our our treasurer is sort of, had to have some fights with them. But he’s won all of them. So, you know, the business of being able to make sure that cheques and things are honoured, we managed to sort it and things like that out. Urr but the, the only – we had support obviously of the printer who obviously lived in [AREA NAME 1]. Urr so, you know, we got some sponsorship for it. Urm and I, I there’s no thought of turning it into any company. It will be a community group controlled by the community and the community will decide what it does. And everybody has a say in it so.

**Interviewer:** Are there any particular skills that people int eh group have?

**Participant:** Well the skills that people have, well, the church warden was I think a, I think he he was a community worker actually. So, and he’s excellent. Urr urr, urr myself, I was a [NAME OF ROLE] so I’m sort of known. Urm you know, I’m a urr I’m a graphic person urr and I said to them, we even created a little character because I said to them, “look you need, once you put it though peoples door that then to throw – that first bit of literature is critical.” So urr I I sort of put forward a character called [CHARACTER NAME] which is a cartoon character and, have we got a picture of [CHARACTER NAME]. But urr there’s a bubble comes out of this mouth. And the leaflet is A5 size it’s not – but printed on heavy paper, quite glossy. And [CHARACTER NAME]’s simply saying, [SLOGAN]. And of course, people got that through the door and they got the message didn’t they. And they said, “what’s this about?” urm, and urr we had, [DESCRIPTION OF LEAFLET] and it, you know, I had this skill to do this. And we’re actually offering that saying, if you’re you know, urr urr there’s another part of [AREA NAME 1] which is right over on the northern side is [unclear 40:41] and we’ve called that [GROUP INITIATIVE NAME]. And the idea of having a table was was actually brilliant. And so I had skills and knowledge of how to produce a good leaflet but that’s there and we’re saying, “look, all you’ve got to do is if its [AREA NAME 2] you change it to [AREA NAME 2] [GROUP INITIATIVE NAME].” And all of the county I mean I’ve been to county meetings and people were talking about this, “ooh we’d like to do that.” And you know, they can literally, the literature and the guidance is there, we’ve created it and so if they want to produce their own things then they’ll actually have to find somebody who can actually do that. But we have had those skills and we have social workers who are actually part of it, really skilled people. Urm, urr they urm was there…, and we are linked into bigger groups who can advise us as well. Which is essential. I mean the question of food parcels, there are groups that are socialising in doing that. And they’d actually said urr, we want to link in with this. This is, this is something where people can join. Larger groups can join in.

**Interviewer:** Local groups?

**Participant:** So, it’s very joined up, the whole thing is.

**Interviewer:** And so, the group is connected with other local groups and with national groups?

**Participant:** Its its its connected with county groups.

**Interviewer:** County groups, okay.

**Participant:** Its connected with county groups and the county have urr, they’re social workers in the south. Because we’ve got areas of considerable poverty in [CITY NAME 1], actually. And you know we have got a drugs problem here; you know the police are always after these county people. So urm yeah, the connection is really county wise. There is, there is a group called [CHARITY NAME], they’re not funded by the county. But they got their fund from the national lottery who put up – ooh, I think over £40,000. And they’ve got full time professional people. And we sit on their Zoom meetings so you can see this interrelationship, from all sorts of levels, is there, is urr, it’s like a spiders web I supposed. Urm yeah, but I, we seem to have done enormously well. I, you know… one of the ladies is a a really corker and so she wrote all these recipes for things and people have come, “oh, we hear that you’ve got a recipes for doing things with cucumbers,” and they’ll come, “oh, oh I, we’ll have that.” And it’s something that the market stall just couldn’t possibly compete with. I mean I think we got the timing of it wrong because we had it, you know, all the stuff that had come from suppliers – if we can called them that, the people with a back garden – they’re supposed to be there on the Saturday morning by eleven o’clock and of course, it sort of drifted on and the people who urr, who are coming into, you now, come and get the food and get the bits that they wanted, it got all mixed up. Because they bring something and take something away. So urr, you know, there’s some adjustments that we know need to be made. But it didn’t diminish the success of the thing at all.

**Interviewer:** Mmm-hmm, how do you coordinate everything?

**Participant:** Well because we had a steering group.

**Interviewer:** Okay.

**Participant:** We had a steering group, urm…you know, I suppose my self and the warden do, do the steering urr the church the church secretary is actually the guy who is the agricultural scientist and his wife is the person who does the recipes and things, and they will, you know, they will, they will do all the notes that we keep from meetings etc, as to what we actually want to do. So, there is a very formal, you now, secretary to it, which you do need to have that structure. You now you do need… we don’t urr we don’t really, urr urr… we don’t really have a chairman as such. I would say myself and the church warden are what I would call facilitators. And we engage with people we don’t use chairmanship. It’s not that, you know, it’s a flat construction if I can say, and it tries to keep itself flat and engage with people. And that is the way it has worked. You know, it’s a question of facilitating the community to do things for each other. And they’ve they’ve done a fantastic job.

**Interviewer:** Urr, you mentioned shopping, urr collecting prescriptions urr any other activities, urr apart from the projects that you’ve mentioned.

**Participant:** Well there was of course, urr, you know, we tackled the disaster of the urr, urr of the surgery closing. There was, urr the question of loneliness of people, there were, you know, and to a certain extent the [GROUP INITIATIVE NAME] was very much a point of which, I mean we had social distancing we had to do urr you know a risk assessment so you know that’s another thing people. I mean, I think it will continue on and, the risk assessment won’t be anywhere near a server as it was with the COVID situation. Urm… urr but that was, I think, urr I’m trying to think what other what other things that we that we actually did. But it was strange how the how the [GROUP INITIATIVE NAME] dealt with a lot of the loneliness, loneliness things. I mean on lady, its funny, the very last one, there was a Dutch lady and all of a sudden she turned up with a Dutch apple pie for all the people who engaged with in and she said, how wonderful, she enjoyed coming to it so much, and she came every single Saturday that lady. And she said, though she was isolated, it was her one thing that she’d look forward to during the week. And I think the busines, you know the mental problems urr is very is very difficult if you’ve got no family around you. Urr, urr I think now, urr you know, there are there are people who didn’t come to this because they had family close by, so there was that there was that network. Of course I could told you a story about the poor guy who had it and was seriously ill when his family was along long way way and we were able to do some social contact there which obviously improved his mental condition when he was in dire straits. So, you know, when you’ve got something that as difficult and as nasty as this, I think the mental, the mental problems that people have. You know feeling extremely lonely, depression. Urm… you know it’s, I suppose some point somebody will put some numbers to those people, those people who simply couldn’t cope with the situation and weren’t – [NAME OF INTERVIEWER], how how is that, does that help at all?

**Interviewer:** Yes, a lot, I still have a few questions if you don’t mind?

**Participant:** Yeah okay fire away, might not be able to answer them. But there you go.

**Interviewer:** You are answering, yes, I want to ask you why did you get involve. If you can explain me your motivations. Why did you start this group?

**Participant:** Urr… well I’d always been aware of pandemics. Urr, I … a few years before it happened there weas a very scientific programme on pandemics and how they could spread out of control. And the scientific community urr issued, this this programme as talking about it exploding from one end of Europe to the other in a matter of a month. So, urr, I was somewhat aware how dangerous – and scientists have been working on pandemics. I mean, you know, was this the first pandemic we’ve ever had? Well it wasn’t. I mean I came, you know, I was brought up as a child on the edge of the [AREA NAME 3], and in the [AREA NAME 3] lies this village called [VILLAGE NAME 1], known as the [VILLAGE NICKNAME]. And urm half the village died in this plague and they tried to cope with it, and that was way back in 1665. And we’ve had continual plagues.

My family lives in china, well my son lives in China and china’s had awful l problems urr urr but that’s an autocratic regime they use the army as their their their service to help in terms of crises and actually they’re very good. I mean I was there at the typhoon and I though how wonderful the Chinese army was, you know it went in and helped, helped people. But obviously we don’t operate under that sort of regime. And urm… I think that my family, funnily enough, it was Chinese New year when it finally started and I, I was just, everyone was like, “oh you know, china you’re a-“ you know I even speak a bit of Chinese,” urr and people said, “oh with Chinese new yar,” we got some, we’ve got some very good Chinese restaurant which is really good Chinese food, because it is, believe you me, different from what you get in China.

Urr and I got his telephone call from my son in China saying, “we’re trying to get on a plane because no one believes what’s happening in China,” urr and I said, he said, “dad” – because we’ve got a fair size house, and he said “dad, can we, can we come to England?” and II said, “yes,” I said, “of course you can.” Anyway, hey couldn’t get out, you now, they were trapped. So urm, I had in my mind, my mind was set before this set rolling that this disease was out in china. And when it came I though, do you know what, you’ve got to do something. And funnily enough it got to China and the Chinese were putting out in their news, urr ‘England badly Stuck By this,’ Italy, Spain, they’re in big big trouble. And he rang me yup and said, “Dad, is there anything I can do?” and I thought a bit and said, “well, we can’t get PPE you know masks and stuff.” Urr and he said, “leave it with me, dad.” And urr, matter of a week later there was knock at the door and a potato sack full of masks of – and they were surgical, you know they were surgical level ones.

Urr, and urr, I, urr I, in fact, there we are I don’t know if you - this is one, this is one and they. I don’t know what they’re made – well they’re made of paper, but you can put them in the washing machine, and you can used them for four hours. But it was, it was what Chinese surgeons were actually using. And a doctor friend looked at one and he said, “crumbs, if only I could get hold of masks like that,” but we had a whole bag full of them. So, I was able to give those, I gave twenty of them to each of there homes for the elderly. And urr, and the people who were working, you know, our volunteers, if they wanted one, you know, they would get one. So urr you know, and it, I you know, I suppose really. The alarm was set in my head because of my connections with China, and I though, “wow,” you know, because they had SARS and you know the Chinese army actually went into peoples flats and they actually disinfected entire flats. You know to try and kill this stuff. And they did get on top of SARS. Urm, so you know really it was, I was very aware of how serious this was. Urr, and urm and urr the elderly were tending to die in China to start with. And I though wow, wow. But urm I mean I’m seventy-seven but urm you know, despite despite some a bad injury which I manage I’m okay. Urm but it was okay because really I became a link person, urr and so I never actually did, you now went and connected things I was just an organising just the sort of guy you know helping organising the thing.

**Interviewer:** And how about –

**Participant:** You know we were fortunate to have the right sort of people in the right sort of place. All of whom – it was a wonderful team, you’d want to work with those people, brilliantly good. Right, that’s one question.

**Interviewer:** And what are the motivations for other participants. Why did people get involved?

**Participant:** Because urr they, they identified with the locality, they belonged urr and there is a strong church group, urm urr and urr in [CITY NAME 1] has a very strong identity. You know, it’s the great cathedral city. In actual fact as an architect I actually think [CITY NAME 1], [LANDMARK NAME 2] is a big beacon. And you, you know it, I think its [DESCRIPTION OF LANDMARK]. So, there’s and it urr you know there’s a lot of things that are going on. Culturally its very active. It’s got a lot of different groups and interest groups and urr I think people really do identify with [CITY NAME 1] and its surrounding areas and villages of identities. Urm, you know, how do you create, you know that’s been created over centuries and centuries and centuries, so it’s not going to be easy for some areas to create this sense of community that actually a place like [CITY NAME 1] has. And I and and urr you know people, people know each other and you can, in [AREA NAME 1] you have this [ROAD NAME] which goes into the city, the city and people do walk in they do the half mile you know, and you know people meet each other it’s the sort of scale where if you go into the town, you will meet somebody that you know, you know, you can’t - you’ll get stopped three, four, or five times by somebody that you know in the town and that in itself the scale and size of the thing is very very important.

I actually – I actually worked for new towns condition urr and there was a scale which of the size of the major town in order to make it an effective community and have the right sort of facilities that you needed. And it had to be between thirty-five and sixty-five thousand. And [CITY NAME 1] is forty-five thousand at the moment. It has a bit – the villages around are a hundred-and-ten thousand, something like that. So, it’s urr you know, and that’s a sort of thing that supports business and of course it a tourist centre as well. But tourist has, believe you me, tourism is no more at the moment, it’s totally collapsed. So, you know its facing difficult times and a lot of business just aren’t surviving so the economic situation really quite dire but that’s not just [CITY NAME 1], that’s everywhere.

**Interviewer:** Okay, now I wasn’t to ask some questions about problems that you or the group have encountered. Urr for example has involvement in the group meant a lot of time and effort for you?

**Participant:** Yes, I \*laughs\* there’s no doubt about that. But urm, I think I’m encouraged by the people around me, and I can always turn to them and say, “well, I cant do that, I can’t go to that,” and then there’ll be somebody who will. Urm, it urm, yeah and I you know, the one thing that you know, I end up going to Zoom meetings I mean, I’ve developed a skill for going on Zoom programmes, which, it seems months ago if someone had said, well, m you know, you can use Zoom, Zoom I would have said, “no I can’t – I don’t know what that is” urm urm but I’m using it and using it and we use it as a link. And in actual fact I actually use it – I have a daughter in [CITY NAME 4] urr I have a son in [CITY NAME 5] and – I’m a bit fortunate really because my, my youngest son urr urr actually lives with me as well. So, he tells me, “dad you’re doing too much!”

**Interviewer:** And for the others?

**Participant:** Sorry.

**Interviewer:** And for the others, for other participants in the group?

**Participant:** The other participants, urm… they seem to want to be and you know, involved. And I get you know casual phone calls from, “do you know about this, do you know about that?” urr so, the the group itself urm, urr they they you know they do things and you don’t asl them to do it!

**Interviewer:** I lost your video again, sorry.

**Participant:** Oh, its hello what’s here? Why’s it shutting down? Oh right, okay, there I’m back, hello.

**Interviewer:** Hi.

**Participant:** Urm yeah, they, yeah and they you know they’ll help, and they’ll sort of help you and yeah it sits quite amazing. They, they’ll help you with problems that you’ve got. I’ve personally found that. Urm, I mean my late wife was a brilliant violinists, and very sadly she got an illness that couldn’t be cured and I’ve had this incredible 18th century violin that she played and it started, you know the bridge had fallen and the string, strings. Urm… and there was one street where there was urr, I found out there was this lady who did, she taught people violin, piano and one of the groups said, “oh, have a word with her,” and I’d said, oh, I don’t know, finding out how I can get this violin repaired.” Anyway, urr she said, “oh, I’ve had a words with her, she’ll repair your violin for you,” and you know, \*laughs\*, so urm urr urr and I I thought, I sort of said, “well how much do you want for doing that?” “Oh, no don’t worry about that,” she said, “I’ll even play it for you when you come to collect it.” You know. I think it’s, it’s - the group itself has really urm benefitted from the support from the people that its actually supporting. You know, so it’s been a two-way thing, urm –

**Interviewer:** And have people dropped out of your group?

**Participant:** Urm... not really, well some of them, we’ve had students, I mean we’ve had students who’ve volunteered. But of course, they’re in very difficult, really difficult incidents at the moment I feel very sorry. You know, having, having been at uni student gone to an art college myself, one knows how distressing all this exam business and how really distressing it must be. And I feel deeply sorry for young people. But they’ve, they’ve of course gone away and - whether they’ve come back and fortunately we’re not in the in the in the north west – God that must be really grim. But urm, yeah, they’ve they’ve actually been ringing up you know, this latest lockdown, “can we, you know, can we do anything?” And I don’t actually think we’ve had to chase anybody too much. I think you know; we’ve come across people - I certainly have. There was a young lady who rung me up and said she was receptionist at one of the big local hotels south of the river and she said, “is there anything I can do?” you know, “how do I get – how do I become a member of your group?” and I said, “you already have, you’ve just asked me,” you know! \*laughs\* So, you know, the group isn’t falling apart, you know, and we’re going to do this Christmas thing and in fact, a couple of people – we’ve found a mistletoe tree and do you have in [COUNTRY NAME 2], do you have this thing about hanging mistletoe? Or is that an English thing?

**Interviewer:** No, I think – I’m not sure what is that?

**Participant:** Mistletoe it goes in apple trees.

**Interviewer:** Mmm, no.

**Participant:** No, you don’t, well people supposedly kiss under the mistletoe.

**Interviewer:** Ah, okay, yes, yes.

**Participant:** You know that, so we’ve got a tree, it’s absolutely full of it and urr we’re going to, the person who owns the tree said you can take every bit of mistletoe on it. So, we’re going to be giving people away mistletoe at Christmas which is really – it’s quite expensive actually. So, we’re going to give that away. And urm, you know I still think there are apples around that we’d give, and people have got toys that are left from children that have grown up and gone away. Urr, and I think we might have a Father Christmas or something. But it makes it, you know, the community… urr, is trying to do something to say, you know, we’re not going to forget Christmas. We’re not going to let COVID destroy Christmas, and this community will try and do something. It may not be grand but, you know. And everybody’s said, “yes, let’s do that.”

**Interviewer:** Urr what kind of things that have helped keep the group doing?

**Participant:** Well that, I think that you know, the real real real biggy is the harvest festival thing.

**Interviewer:** Okay.

**Participant:**  I think that’s been an incredible driver. I I you know from just, I can’t I can’t I don’t really know what to do with all these papers, you know, it’s grown this incredible momentum behind it. I mean its and and you know, we’ve been able to put together a stall and its - well, I went down to the market and they had bowls of things for a pound, and various other bits of vegetable and fruit and I counted up how many that they actually had, and they had nine different items. And on our stall we had twenty-one. You know, and it included urm it included herms it included flowers. And you know somebody actually gave us to, to auction – a cider press. Urr and we got £50 for it, he said “no, no.” So we had a cider pressed he was absolutely, you know, you couldn’t make it up what came in and the guy that bought it has been making bottles of cider so I think of the Christmas stall we’ll have homemade bottles of cider. Or maybe we wont because of the food regulations which – you have to be very weary of that. We just said to people, make sure that whenever you get, you wash it. Yeah, so you know, we wouldn’t make anything, we gave things to people who were, I don’t know qualified or registered to make food for people.

**Interviewer:** Did you do for example well-being activities, discussions, events these kind of things?

**Participant:** Urr, well there’s a difficulty with that and we certainly do need to have discussion but urr you… we - the church, the church group managed to have church services outside which urr… they were very well attended but of course you’ve got to keep two meters a part and it is a very strong parish church group as well so. Urr and they actually – what did they do? Oh they raised money for urr urr for an African country which the church does you know funds and it was really you know, clear out clear out looking what you’ve got that you don’t need we can have a sale stall. So that so that event actually happened and though it was the parish church country we helped and everybody else helped so you know, there wasn’t really a separate-ness between the three groups. If one decided, wanted to do something, urr we’d all say right well we’ll help with that as well. So, you know, the three did pull together in all sort of ways. Urm, yeah, I, the difficult, I mean we have got really real issues in that they’re trying to build a huge number of houses and people know that the river bridge won’t take it. We have traffic jams that are massive, if you’ve ever driven in to [CITY NAME 1], don’t come on the Saturday morning, you could be stuck in a traffic jam for two hours and they just don’t sort it out.

Urr and people get very angry about it that they’re not dealing with major problem and its affecting business because people think, “oh, don’t go to [CITY NAME 1] its got real – you will get stuck in this terrible traffic jams they’ve got.” Urm, and urm one does need, one one really does need the community to discuss that. And you’ve probably you know we had this [DESCRIPTION OF PROMINENT NEWS EVENT IN AREA] so we’ve certainly been in the war zone.

Urm, and you - so now we’re sort of faced with the danger of flooding because it has this long history. So as a town we’re struggling, and we need to put pressure on and have discussions as to what we need to do to dig ourselves out of this very grim situation that the city’s got into. And I think the good news is, that the citizens are closing ranks, and urr you know, bureaucracy isn’t going to do well, beware because we’ll be out in the streets. Urr you know, we’ve had enough of this it’s a town and city that’s been really badly hit and the future urr could be even worse. However, urr you know the subject of what were talking about, the community is holding together underneath all of this pressure. I mean I’m a … you know, it’s a bit war time like actually. Urm... it’s very very strange that we should be involved in really food and urr you know and growing food. Urr because I remember as a small child after the war and we, we had a, not a large bungalow and a half acre at the side of it, but my father grew everything. And we supplied a lot of food and a hundred chicken and so – and I remember the difficulties of food security. So, if we you know, strangely enough if things do get difficult we’ve got our [GROUP INITIATIVE NAME] where food security can be bolstered a bit, you know, people will bring stuff in and urr, its its very interesting, you know the difficulties – you hear about how people were shoulder to shoulder during the second world war, and how this, this thing, it’s almost – there others there’s some sort of reflection of that time where people are quite prepared not to let their neighbours suffer if they can do anything. I mean at least we’re not digging people out of bombed out buildings and you know, the infrastructure and things is there so, it’s nowhere near as bad as the second world war when things were really badly destroyed. I mean I remember the centre of [CITY NAME 6] didn’t exist, buses in holes and you know, whole areas completely flattened by the bombing, urr you know. So, you know we’re not in that situation and I think we should be helpful and urr COVID has its terrible and bad side but… urr I think it has, has brought people together and people anxious to help each-other which we’ve not – you know we’ve tend to become a very selfish society, do things – oh we can survive on our own, it’s all about money, well I think people have suddenly learn it isn’t all about money. So, you know, there are lessons here.

**Interviewer:** Okay, urm, have you learnt anything from coordinating this group?

**Participant:** Urm yeah well – fortunately – listen, listen to people.

**Interviewer:** Okay.

**Participant:** Just ask them what they think and value what they say. I mean when we were talking about doing a leaflet. There’s all this, “what do we call this?” and one guy stood up and said its – “you know its harvest festival in church, and he said its sort of an all year long harvest festival isn’t it?” And I thought, “hang on wait a minute I’ll make a note of that,” and of course we used it. And its caught on, you know and its. One of the steering groups said, “should we have some recipes to go with the kind of, those, wouldn’t that be a good idea?” And I said, “do you know what, we need something for the back of this leaflet, that’s a great idea,” “do you think so?” “I do yes.” So listen to what people are telling you, because they might have real gems, real pearls. So don’t you know, do not think, “I’m running this, I’m not going -you know I’m going to do it my way.” No, listen to what other people have to contribute and if, I mean as an [OCCUPATION] you have to at times you have to say to a client, “you can’t do that. That will not work.” You know, and at other times they’ll say, “we don’t think that’ll – we can’t do that can we?” And I would say, “well, you know, let me try, let me try, let me see what we can do. I don’t think that’s impossible.” So, I think being receptive to other is the key key word for anybody leading a community group or at the front of it.

**Interviewer:** You mentioned, you mentioned several strategies that perhaps helped the group going, keep going, do you, any of this strategic, urm any of this strategic or just ad-hoc?

**Participant:** Urm… well urm… the way it actually evolved and set up; I think there there was a strategy in even forming groups to bring them together. So, there was a strategy, right from top to bottom of bringing things together. So, if there was a strategy, that was it.

**Interviewer:** Okay.

**Participant:** And it’s also also a question of I thin evaluating who can do what too. I mean obviously… I mean as an architect you have to deal with builders and sometimes they’re difficult and you you you know you have to you have to be able to sort of sometimes urr, give things a little bit of direction, you know, and recognise perhaps that people might have a valid point. Urm… you know its its a question its its it really is a management issue. How do you manage people? And I‘m and you don’t manage people urr by an authoritarian way, and particularly if you will be handling something where you really don’t know what you’re doing. You’re not sure where it’s going and you you need to urm, you know, you need to listen to where peoples concerns where they think it should go. Urm… so its urr… you know its its very difficult managing because you’ve got to have an authority for a start. And you’ve got to have an authority that people will actually recognise and say, “well, you know he might actually know about that.” Urm… urr but equally you have to – this word ‘facilitator’ I think is wonderful. Enable people to help with the sort of say. Urm and you think oh you know you you can’t urr you can’t have in people kind of designing things urr, which to a certain degree is try but equally you’ll find that if you get a group od people around the table and it happened particular with this because there was half a dozen of us and we got around the table, we had a steering group urn… somebody will come up with something which the people managing it might not have suggested. But it comes from somebody else. And the person managing it has the ability to recognise, you know, what, they’ve got a point here.

So, good management is really about enabling people to be involved and be apart of something. I think that’s really what good management is about. And people have to think, “he’s not managing us at all, he’s listening to us.” And the best management doesn’t appear to be a leader at all, but everybody will go, go with it. You know, he leads things in a you know, in way that facilitates the task that you’re aiming at. Urm you know so I mean that certainly… [NAME OF GROUP MEMBER] who is the guy that I go with, the church guy, urm, you know he’ll ring me up and say, “what do you think about this?” and I say, “well I’m not so sure [NAME OF GROUP MEMBER] that that’s quite the right thing to do.” Urm or or he’ll be I’ll put something to him and he’s say, “no, that’s fine, you you get on with that.” But he’s used to managing people, he’s a community involving, and he knows how to involve the community.

**Interviewer:** And did you find any problems in the first of urm trying to organise, coordinating the group, and problems that the group have encountered? Communication issues?

**Participant:** Well urr you know urr I’ve got my iPhone, we had Zoom -we actually funnily enough we had a dedicated, dedicated little phone that –

**Interviewer:** Did you use Facebook?

**Participant:** -it was purely urr for this group. Nobody else, it was it was never used for anything else at all. It was purely for this, it just happened that the guy who urm, you know, it was the church warden had a spare one. And it was his idea that we just had this phone so it, you know, you left message with it. They just come and pick it up and see what was on it. So, there was a - you now, very simple but yeah that’s an interesting question, yeah. That little phone was very useful actually because that’s all it was used for actually. It was dedicated to sort of message sending and message picking up.

**Interviewer:** And did you use Facebook? Social media?

**Participant:** Urm… we well we have a thing called [NAME OF WEBSITE], which is a local site, and you can put messages on it like, “would you like to help us?” Or you know actually look for people saying, “can we help?” on this [NAME OF WEBSITE] and apparently these these things exist everywhere these [NAME OF WEBSITE] sites. Urr urr and that’s useful. I mean the other thing that I think we did use for messaging is the local press - were fascinated by the [GROUP INITIATIVE NAME] and how powerful that was, and they published every week something about what we’re doing what we had on the stall, because it all change every week it kind of grew like topsy and we had a guy a guy who we didn’t even appoint him. He he found out who the reporter was and got on with them. And we said, “nah you just get on with it, that’s your, that’s your zone of responsibility.” So we had publicity all the time and we even had, there’s a free newspaper that’s all of south [COUNTY NAME 1] and the editor came to us and said, “I want to do a big article on this, this is really really fun.” You know so we we had we had the framework. And we didn’t really use Facebook and I think people Twittered amongst themselves. Urr, but we had urr, we had urr, you now, we had our leaflet that came our originally which was woah did that hit the button, that was, that was the first thing that really set it off. Urm and the church had its communication network. It also had the parish church magazine, they published it in that. And of course, you have a lot of elderly people are not into IT. That is a, that is a problem. Urr, but you know, the parish church magazine which a lot of people, I mean I do that, though I’m not a particularly good church goer. But urr its’ the difficulty of people, like you need to actually register who those people are. And I think we’ve now built up a register of people who are not IT linked in. And I’m afraid that’s a problem with [COUNTY NAME 1] council, “oh, you can find it all on IT,” but fortunately urm… the urr urr the [CHARITY NAME 1] the people who is the director of that is well aware of those people who you know, are not IT linked. So urr and certainly you know, it is the older people whop are vulnerable.

Funnily enough, there is a group called [LOCAL GROUP NAME]. And they’ve asked – I’ll tell you what, it might be useful if you go tin touch with them because they made a film.

**Interviewer:** Okay.

**Participant:** Err err yeah and urr we in fact, we were sort of -they came to [GROUP INITIATIVE NAME] because they thought “wow”, and I know they offered it to the regional TV stations and the radio stations, urr but they talked to lots of people about urr, about you know the sorts of things that you’re asking me about. Urm… urr urr you know and it… it really pointed out that the older people urr were really driving a lot of this effort. Urr there wasn’t urr, well because obviously younger people had sort of gravitated away. You know, young people looked like I looked, getting way from home, going to university or art college or whatever it was and so they’re not quite so, they’ve got their peers who are also going to university etc. So, they’re they’re a very different group, they’re very different to you know, social connections. You know, they’re all that sort of age. So it was really the older people and this [LOCAL GROUP NAME] thing, all you’ve got to do it is if you go to a search engine, pop in [LOCAL GROUP NAME] and have a look, it’s about twenty minutes long this film.

**Interviewer:** I will, thank you. So, I have a final question, I think a final one

**Participant:** One final question, my goodness me.

**Interviewer:** It will get more of a - usually it gets more of I start with one final question and then I ask two or three more, but I’ll try to just have one. So, how do you, how do you see the future of this group?

**Participant:** I see it pulling much closer together, that’s what I see the future. And it got to deal with how does it deal with legal issues like the planning problems that really are blighting [CITY NAME 1] at the moment. And in a way its something that the church will not involve themselves, so that’s a bit of a conundrum and it may be the group that I, that I you know I sort of represented of the three will have to be a slightly aside group, you know a separate subcommittee or something that deals separately with that and entirely separately. But urm… we probably need to set up and look at a different kind of constitutional and how we deal with the… urr you know, the way that it it operates in the future. So that’s urr you know that urr going to be a bit of a tricky one to deal with. But I think we’ll we’ll manage that, we know what we want to do, and the churches are very keen to have you know, somebody who’s a social worker attached to it who can work full time you know and can keep you our connection with all those who are feeling vulnerable, families that are vulnerable.

**Interviewer:** And your role in the group?

**Participant:** Mmm?

**Interviewer:** How will be your role in the group, how do you see yourself in the group?

**Participant:** Urr, well I, I \*laughs\* I think I have a role and I don’t see the current role changing for some time. Urr, in actual fact I’ve been talking there’s a massive expansion of the hospital, urr and I think urr that is really big and I think urr actually working with the hospital is going to be very very important. I mean it is a very important hospital. It urr, unlike other district hospitals, I mean we’ve got [ORGANISATION NAME] which deals with all these sort of big big problems, counter intelligence, counter urr threats like the COVID sort of threat. Urr but it also deals with disease problems in other parts of the world and that is, I think that is going to be aligned much more with the holistic. And the hospital framework needs to it in with the city framework. And it could, you know, it’s really important really because you, you know a town won’t survive unless there’s work for people. It’s a simple as that believe you me, I’ve been involved in doing new town and you’ve got to sort of, urr you know you can’t design towns without having some idea of what work you’re going to provide for them.

And I think the hospital is going to have a much more -you know, they’re going to have science part there so I think some people will may well be much more able to stay in the town. Because you look in the jobs page and at 20,000 a year, its [unclear 01:37:21] jobs of much more value than that. But in expanding this sort of health focus that [CITY NAME 1]’s got. I think that that that is going to be something very good. You know, and I think you know what you’ve you’ve you’ve been here seeing these big things come together and urr, I’m still I’m still feeling that I’m useful. So, I don’t see, I see the role developing someone. You know trying to persuade [COUNTY NAME 1] council urr to deal with things in a different way that its doing. Because the beauty of working with New Town is you don’t get this sort of bureaucracy. You get a group of professional people who are all sort of skills and you know, you get some sociologists you know, you get business people, development managements and you know, just spotting plots of land that they, you commission to is not the way. Its piecemeal. Urr and I’m deeply convinced that they’re they’re not, you know, they’ve never been in this sort of world where you’ve got to make some really big decisions and I think [CITY NAME 1] needs to make some massive decisions really because it’s first threatened – I think the flood threat is is really, very big.

Because the water comes off of [CITY NAME 1] plain which is on [a little ? 01:39:14] level and urr I can remember because I ran my practice for a time, I can remember building a precision engineering factory and urr I the whole thing was built upside own and it poured and poured with rain but the beauty of it was the site kept working. And it was the only site in [CITY NAME 1] that did keep working. But the roads were cut off, you know people couldn’t get. And you know there’s this [ROAD NAME], and you wouldn’t dare to walk across it, you get six inches deep and people don’t realise what the weight of water is. But a cubic meter of water weighs one tonne. And it only, you know, six inches of that hits you as you’re walking along – you won’t stand up. It’s you know, you just won’t stand up. Now [CITY NAME 1]’s faced with that urr and at the moment they’re thinking about enhancing the flood defences, and boy, is that the first thing on the shopping list, we need to do that. And so, you know, you’ve you’ll probably find other places, you know, don’t quite have this huge focus on what it needs to do, as [CITY NAME 1] does but urr. I, I empathise with these problems and in any case, I don’t like television very much, its dreadful. So, I’m much happier you know putting my thinking cap on and seeing what we can do to move things forward. And I think I think it does me good you know I mean I feel a lot better when I’m actually involved and doing things but you’re a uni person, you’re doing post grad -can I ask you? I’ve not asked anything about you.

**[Debriefing]**

**[End of Interview]**