

## **Pathways to Impact**

Broadly the project has three types of beneficiaries: Disabled people, environmental activists/sustainability practitioners, and planners and policy makers, who will all be engaged in the project. However, we also anticipate that wider communities will benefit from the study through the knowledge exchange at its heart. An action research approach will ensure that co-researchers are involved in reflection on learning, collaborating organisations will join the project group and blog.

### **Disabled people**

The PI is already engaged with WECIL, a Disabled-led organisation, who collaborated in the previous scoping study. They have a peer support group who wish to participate in the research. Members of this group are drawn from all over the city, including the most disadvantaged areas, and the peer support group enables Disabled members to participate in activities by offering support and skills/confidence building. In this way we will have channels (and champions) for outputs and dissemination through members of the peer support group, and also through WECIL more generally, including their website, information giving and other services, and their ability to convene Disabled people. WECIL, its services and membership, other Disability organisations and Disabled people in the Bristol area more generally, will as a result of the project

- have an increased sense of their ability to contribute to learning for a sustainable society. Disabled people will be invited and encouraged to blog via Wordpress site, which will meet DDA standards. Findings will be distributed through WECIL and other local disability groups.
- be better informed regarding environmental issues and activities. This will impact on the focus of and the way it runs its business e.g. inclusion of environmental information and signposting to environmental organisations on the WECIL website; involvement in City Council Sustainable City consultations; an increase in Disabled people involved in energy saving campaigns.
- be more aware of the potential to make common cause with environmental organisations, recognising a shared concern for democratic control, stakeholder participation and the role of and respect for 'citizen knowledge', resulting in an increase in shared campaigning.
- benefit from the Toolkit of arts-based and narrative methods. We will distribute this via the project website to WECIL and the participants to use and disseminate. The Toolkit will enable them to increase their tools for participation in planning and decision making e.g. in their individual lives, in engaging with and influencing planners and services e.g. NHS, City Council. The Toolkit will be further distributed to regional and national Disability organisations to share learning, including Disability Rights UK. We will utilise our local, regional and national connections with Disability organisations to link to and build connection with our Wordpress site and blog. Numbers accessing the Wordpress site will be collected.

The research project will contribute to the *Know Your Place* website. The voice of the Disabled community has been largely absent to date from Know Your Place, and from the wider City archive. Collaboration with the proposed research will help to rectify this through building partnerships between Disabled people's organisations and parts of the council involved in planning and design. Disabled members of the public will be able to see themselves and their issues included in *Know Your Place*, and will consequently be more likely to contribute and engage with the City council. This contributes to building a sense of agency in co-researchers and the wider Disabled population.

### **Environmental activists and sustainability practitioners**

The PI is working with the Cabot Institute and Bristol Sustainable City Group to identify and make contact with activists in the field of sustainability. It is our intention to attract a range of co-researchers from a number of organisations and initiatives, rather than only focus on Transition Bristol (TB). These include: Permaculture practitioners, Green Arts Network, Sustainable Transport, Social Enterprise consultants, Bedminster Energy and Energy co-op, Friends of the Earth, Sustainable Food projects, Grofun, and the Schumacher Institute. In this way we hope to have multiple channels for outputs and dissemination.

We are aware of the challenges of engaging those who are already enthusiastically working in their own sphere, and our realistic recruitment strategy will include establishing links through key people who are known and respected. The PI and our sustainability consultant, will spend time meeting with potential co-researchers to explain the project and recruit to it. The previous scoping study identified areas of common cause for Disability and Sustainability groups, and these will be utilised to build conversations and engagement. It has also become apparent during the course of

developing this application, that many organisations in this field are aware of and concerned by their lack of diversity and the benefits that the project might bring to address this.

Sustainability/environmental activists and organisations will:

- be more inclusive and accessible through information gained and changed attitudes to Disabled people, e.g. meetings held in accessible venues; initiatives publicised through WECIL networks; inclusion of learning from Disabled people's experience on environmental organisation's websites; increased numbers of Disabled will people become involved.
- benefit from the Toolkit of arts-based and narrative methods, distributed via the project website to the participants and organisations to use and disseminate. The Toolkit will enable them to extend their tools for participation in planning and decision making in their individual lives, and in engaging with and influencing planners and services e.g. the City Council, developers, businesses. The Toolkit will be further distributed to regional and national Sustainability/environmental organisations to share learning, including the Transition Towns (TT) network. We will utilise our local, regional and national connections with Sustainability/environmental organisations to link to and build connection with Wordpress site.

The national TT movement is a key umbrella organisation, and we are developing connections with the education and learning function of TT through Connected Communities Fellow Keri Facer. TT will become a way to publicise and recruit to the project, and to link to and build connection with our Wordpress site and blog, so involving people in the debate and the learning from the project as it goes along, ie increasing hits on our Wordpress site from TT practitioners.

The project will link with the AHRC funded Transition Research Network (TRN), and this proposed project will initiate a theme of inclusion and diversity for the TRN. The proposed project's arts based methods will inform the TRN's Evaluation and Monitoring work theme. The TRN, along with the AHRC funded Walking Artists Network, will enable more practitioners to link to our Wordpress site and blog, so involving people in a community of inquiry. Numbers accessing the Wordpress site will be monitored and reviewed.

### **Planners and policy makers\_**

The PI has engaged with Bristol City Council (Archives, Sustainable City Group, Emergency planning), and with the Environment Agency. All have expressed enthusiasm for participating in the project. We will work with these organisations to better understand how outputs can contribute to planning agendas. These agencies have a shared concern in the wider resilience debate, and believe that our project has something to contribute to those discussions. For this reason we will work with these organisations to link to and build connection with our Wordpress site and blog, so involving people in the debate and the learning from the project as it goes along. We will also involve representatives from these organisations in the project workshop 2.

Involvement with the M.Shed (popular history museum) and with the *Know Your Place* project will contribute to redressing the relative absence of the voice of the Disabled community from *Know Your Place*, and from the wider City archive. The project documentation will contribute a direct 'voice', and partnerships and relationships built through the project have the potential to ensure that Disabled people are better represented in the future, e.g. an exhibition of project hosted by Museums service and made available to other organisations. Numbers attending will be collected. *Know Your Place* is intended for everyone's use from Primary Schools to Planners. All the information on Know Your Place added by members of the public and staff at the Council will form part of the Historic Environment Record (HER), this information has material weight in planning related matters and will contribute to local regeneration strategies and urban design processes, particularly where neighbourhood improvements are proposed.

Planning organisations in the Bristol area will benefit from the Toolkit of arts-based and narrative methods. We will distribute this via the project website and send it to the participants and planning organisations to use and disseminate. The Toolkit will enable them to extend their tools for participation in planning and decision making e.g. in engaging with communities around regeneration, planning and service review e.g. the City Council strategic plans, Civil emergency planning, Environment Agency flood planning.

The Toolkit will be further distributed to regional and national planning organisations to share learning, including the Environment Agency and Department for Communities and Local Government. We will utilise our local, regional and national connections with strategic planning organisations to link to and build connection with our Wordpress site and blog. Numbers accessing the Wordpress site will be monitored and reviewed.