

The St Ives Economic Doughnut (Does not involve Tom’s Cakes!)

Introduction

Doughnut Economics has been around for a few years and is the idea of Kate Raworth. In simple terms it is about finding the right balance in our society; the doughnut ring, whilst meeting the social and economic needs of people; the inside of the ring and keeping within environmental limits; the outside of the ring. For more details refer: <https://www.kateraworth.com/doughnut/>

There are also similarities with the Government’s Healthy New Towns documents: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/innovation/healthy-new-towns/>. The new settlement at Northstowe is one of the new healthy new towns. The objectives also align with the UN’s sustainable development goals.

The question is how might we apply this to St Ives. Some initial thoughts are in the table below:

Subject Area	Requirements	Current situation Shortfall areas	Possible Actions	Responsibility
Basic Requirements				
Water	Clean safe drinking water Drainage and sewage	High water bills? Future water shortages	Water saving devices Reduce water use for farms and local parks/green space NP- Specify low water use for new homes	
Food	Adequate healthy and affordable food	Increased use of local food banks Number of takeaways Poor diet – obesity problems	NP –policies on retail mix Local food education Promote local produce – community farm scheme	
Health	Healthy lifestyle Access to healthcare	Obesity Loneliness Waiting times for care	Encourage healthy lifestyle – diet, walking/cycling –less car use Road champions in each area	

		Getting to hospital Dementia Access to green space	Ongoing volunteer driver scheme Raising awareness Dementia friendly shops and public space	
Education	Lifelong education opportunities	Capacity at local schools? Adult education opportunities	Develop university of the 3 rd age to all age groups Local IT training schemes	
Income and work	Suitable / satisfying work	Adult re-training for new job opportunities Local Unemployment Range of jobs available	HDC Prospectus – innovation hub on cattle market car park Develop links with Cambridge businesses	
Peace and justice	Fair society Free from violence Access to justice	Domestic violence Incidents of local racism Access to legal aid	Education/awareness	
Political Voice	Local and national engagement Being listened to	Low turnout at local level Limited engagement with community		
Social Equality	Equal access to goods and services	?	Ensure policies consider impacts on all people / especially marginal groups	
Gender Equality	Equal access Part of decision making	Domestic violence	As above	
Housing	Enough suitable housing	300+ on housing list Need for down-sizing homes Housing for disabled	NP- Identify sites and housing mix for new housing (limited scope)	
Networks	Part of the community Locally Informed	People not aware of local activities	Develop St Ives social media CA Mayor transport plan	

	Good alternatives to the car	Poor public transport to villages Gaps in cycle network		
Energy	Access to affordable energy	High Energy bills	NP- Zero carbon new housing Energy saving measures in existing buildings Scope for local generation	
Environmental Constraints				
Climate Change		Reduce consumption Energy saving	Identify St Ives Carbon footprint Local Eco-group Repair hubs	
Pollution			Transport alternatives to car – develop bus and cycle networks Electric vehicles – charging points Increase re-cycling Reduce packaging – business, takeaways and shops Litter awareness Litter picks in town	
Land			Changing farming practice Protect river and riverbank	
Bio-diversity			Protect and enhance green spaces Tree and wild flower planting	