



Bradford City Centre Breakfast Club Report

(external)

1. Introduction

1.1 Bradford City Centre Breakfast Club was held on Thursday 4th July 2019, from 6 – 8pm at Assembly, on North Parade, in Bradford City Centre. It provided an informal discursive space for independent businesses, traders, creatives and people living or working in Bradford City Centre with an interest in doing things in the city centre differently (Fig. 1).

1.2 This was a successful event using a friendly but structured format to enable conversation and discussion which aimed at:

- Finding solutions for city centre and high street issues from the bottom up
- Bringing people together from different backgrounds to identify local common causes
- Finding out about community wealth building
- Exploring different ways that we could do things together to benefit the local community and business

1.3 This Breakfast Club was a collaboration between Wur Bradford, Waymarking and Bradford Civic Society (see Section 5 for details of each organisation). Breakfast Club is a new project from Waymarking, being developed in collaboration with local partners – these events are strongly grounded in place, co-produced with local partners and foregrounding local participants expertise about their place, as a way to innovate and find solutions for local place-based issues. Originally this event was planned to take place in the morning, hence the name.

2. Participants

2.1 33 people attended, including organisers. Participants included local city centre residents, creative practitioners, local traders and landlords, public sector workers, people involved in voluntary groups and a group from Institute of urbanism (who were on a study visit of Bradford, being hosted by Bradford Council).



- To find solutions for city centre issues from the bottom up
- To bring people together from different backgrounds
- To identify local common causes
- To find out about community wealth building



Figure 2



Figure 3

2.2 Organisers were:

- Jean McEwan and Chemaine Cooke from Wur Bradford.
- Paul Waley, Simon Cunningham and Ruth Frost from Bradford Civic Society.
- Sarah Spanton from Waymarking.

The partner organisations were kindly supported by Assembly and Roswitha's Deli (Oastler Market).

3. Event structure

The event structure comprised:

- Refreshments and a collective creative activity – asking questions around: what does Bradford city centre/high street mean to you? (Fig. 2).
- A welcome and introductions to each of the three organisations from their representatives.
- A get to know who's in the room activity (Fig. 3).
- A short presentation and discussion session from Sarah Spanton 'An introduction to Community Wealth Building' (CWB). The presentation outlined key features of a grass-roots approach to CWB, key organisations advocating for it and practical examples from Liverpool, Birmingham and Wigan. (Fig. 4).
- Collective activity in groups of 5 or 6 people, discussing the key issues participants wanted to raise about the city centre/high street. Followed by collectively mind-mapping the issues and the responses and ideas arising from the discussion, to try and identify key areas of common cause amongst participants (Fig. 5).



4. Event outcomes

4.1 Participant responses to how they felt about Bradford city centre/high street now, included:

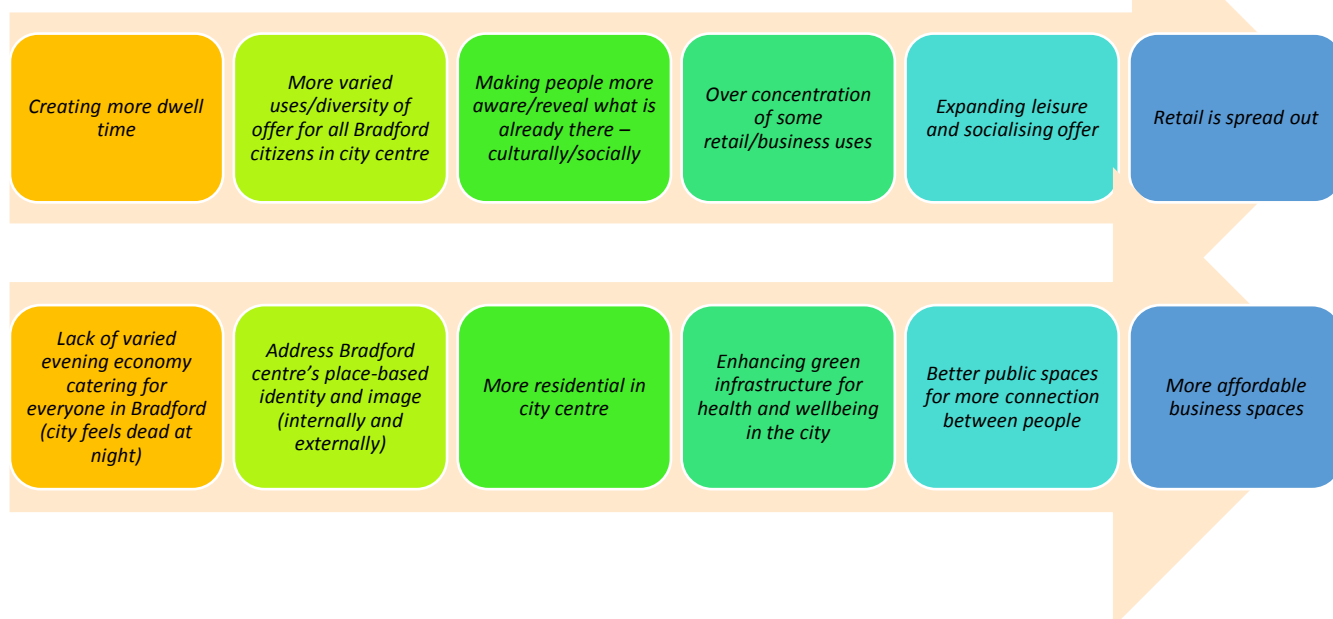
Positive Responses

*North Parade – creative vibe!
Space for ideas to happen – creativity & collaboration
Rawson Market (is good)
Good on the smaller chain shops.
Improving – decent shopping!
Love the friendly people
Architecture, family always lived here, fond memories*

Negative comments

*Empty buildings
Need more independent businesses
Lack of small speciality shops etc
No adequate supermarkets.
Empty premises / charity shops / 'cheap' shops*

4.2 Common Causes key themes arising from discussion of issues were (in no particular order):



4.3 One of the ways that Bradford City Centre Breakfast Club was a successful, was that at the conclusion, many participants identified that they wished to continue some future form of dialogue. Wur Bradford and Waymaking staff stated that they were interested in taking this work forward, dependent on funding.

4.4 14 people responded to feedback on the event itself. Responses included:

- *Very interesting evening with lots of good ideas. Would like to be involved in the future.*
- *Thanks for bringing together a really wide range of interests – art, police, council, landlords and businesses.*
- *I found interesting/informative. I'm interested to see how things develop. Also I'm just interested to see a conversation that is imagining something that isn't business as usual*
- *Too short! Need more time!*
- *Friendly, sociable and thought provoking.*
- *Well organised and positive meeting – the city centre deserves a group that's willing to think out of the box, and prepared to push hard to make things happen.*

5. Partner Details

5.1 Bradford Civic Society champions our cities heritage and built environment, while encouraging higher standards of design and architecture in future developments, events include guided walks, talks and discussions. <http://bradfordcivicsociety.co.uk>

5.2 Wur Bradford is a grassroots arts project exploring how we can make our city and our world better through imagination and collective action. It is run by artists Jean McEwan, Chemaine Cooke and Uzma Kazi). Wur work with people to explore how creativity might be used to make positive change within ourselves as well as our communities. Activities include workshops, events, campaigns and discussions and we ran weekly sessions in Kirkgate Market for two and a half years from 2015 – 2017. <https://wurbradford.wordpress.com/>

5.3 Waymarking works with communities to undertake community-led regeneration, planning and economic development projects and research, using creative, co-produced approaches. Recent projects include researching the co-design of a social enterprise hub, community-led research into age-friendly neighbourhoods and co-designing a community green for a community market. <https://www.waymarking.org.uk/about>