

2. WORK & OPPORTUNITY

NEEDS, PROBLEMS, ISSUES

- Low income=massive health inequality in town
- No interesting work here
- Can't get a trades person
- It's a cliff edge when funding support ends... need costs for staff/maintenance
- Better paid Council jobs are in Dumfries; more services going regional
- Trades not valued as an option at school
- Young people leave the area and don't come back
- Oyster processing goes down south
- Must attract talent/ideas/business ... need fire-starters/trail-blazers/catalysers
- Public transport doesn't link up / can't get me to work
- Volunteer support dropped - people need paid... free labour vs new skills balance

SOLUTIONS, IDEAS, OPPORTUNITIES

- Rebrand Trades: school push this as a worthwhile destination
- College could provide Construction Skills to professional level
- Set up Town Squad social enterprise, link with College, offer; apprenticeships
- Reuse Shop expansion: cookery skills for work, support for new businesses
- Trial pop-ups: seafront seafood shack, bakehouse with sourdough, street food
- "Meantime opportunities" - use vacant shops; pop-ups; bring high street to life
- Growing/gardening hub on seafront: skills, events, learning, experiments> jobs
- Link transport: bus to train; times meet working hours; community transport
- Offer self-employment support: mentors, courses, incubation, de-risk
- College provide 5 star hospitality training servicing George bunkhouse
- Library Coding Club - develop digital skills for work
- Transition plan from school must be inclusive
- Need a bigger range of courses at college
- George Hotel studios - share with College for new art course students
- Businesses work with school on positive destinations here in town for leavers
- Be a working port; apply for FreePort status - there are financial incentives
- Be a training centre: hydrogen/clean energy; digital transformation; automation

"I GOT A STUDENT PLACEMENT - NOW I HAVE A JOB"

"I'LL LEAVE... MAYBE RETIRE HERE"

"WE TRAIN PERFECTLY EMPLOYABLE PEOPLE"

"NEED SUPPORT TO SET UP IN BUSINESS"

"MAGIC BULLET AT ACADEMY IS SELF-ESTEEM"

