

# 5. PRIDE & CITIZENSHIP

## NEEDS, PROBLEMS, ISSUES

- The East Pier/station is a disgrace... the high street is run down
- Town's lost trust/confidence: cover consulted+no change=passive
- Over/under-represented voices/people; time rich vs time poor; confidence issue
- Community groups not representative/quorate; numbers dwindle
- Years of Councils depleting Community Development posts - skills gap
- Community groups fell-out - money unspent; compete for funding; egos; toxic
- Loud/unpleasant voices on Facebook - off-putting for community building
- Need to fix 'the system': Council processes that don't help like Planning
- Our community could be taking on huge funds - baptism of fire - are we ready?
- No maintenance budgets or wages built into projects; Council-owned poorly kept
- Free Press is dying; needs online subscription

## SOLUTIONS, IDEAS, OPPORTUNITIES

- Town Makeover - mural, art trail, bunting, paint shopfronts, spring clean
- Set up Town Squad to keep on top of town centre
- Huge, iconic, must-see sculpture on pier: Ross's compass... Beacon - Crowdfunder
- Bring back boats: Tall Ship, Waverley Steamer, Cruise Liners
- Sow wildflowers around abandoned sites and grounds
- Tackle vacant/derelict land; Scottish Land Fund can help
- Build Loch Ryan Oyster reputation like Loch Fyne Oysters or Portavadie Prawns
- Need conflict resolution for fractured communities
- Need a navigator to help community challenge and disrupt public services
- Locals as *Shareholders* not stakeholders: one share, one vote; rewards/incentives
- Coordinate community engagement... digital voting; monthly public forum
- Citizens Passport: offer locals free access to attractions, benefits, vouchers, offers
- Engage the young: 10,000 Voices, Youth Scotland platform, Rock the Vote
- Provide healthy food as part of public engagement events
- Build a Community Chest: shared resources: equipment/skills, cosmetic change
- Have one Town *What's On* - digital and print: users update; screens round town
- Welcome new people, talent, business, energy, ideas, activism (no 'incomer' vibe)
- Locals and visitors need 1, 2 and 3 day itineraries - things to do

**“THE BLIGHT OF THE FRONT”**  
**“SHIFT GEAR: DO IT UP OR TAKE IT DOWN”**  
**“PUBLIC MONEY IS MY MONEY”**  
**“REAL INSIGHTS COME FROM YOUNG MUMS”**  
**“I DON'T HAVE TIME - I'VE GOT 3 JOBS AND KIDS”**  
**“HE WAS BULLIED OUT OF THE GROUP”**

