Exploring Community Resilience

Dr Nick Wilding
The capacity for populations to endure, adapt and generate new ways of thinking and functioning in the context of change, uncertainty or adversity.
Exercise 1: Reflect

• How have I experienced resilience?
• What can I share at this workshop that I have learned from this experience?
• What do I hope to get from this workshop to build on this experience?
My learning from Ladakh
• 1913: £10 million endowment to promote the wellbeing of the people of the UK and Ireland

• 2007: Commission for Rural Communities

• 2008: Creating ‘Fiery Spirits’ Community of Practice (www.fieryspirits.com)

• 2011: Exploring Community Resilience in times of rapid change
Asset based Approaches

- Financial
- Social
- Natural
- Political
- Built
- Human
- Cultural
The Isle of EIGG

12th June 1997: Islanders buy Eigg after huge public appeal.

2003: Land Reform Scottish Parliament

2010: Europe’s first community-owned renewable energy grid.

2012: 400,000 acres now owned and managed by Highland communities.

2013: Land Reform Review: Lowlands?
exploring community resilience in times of rapid change

what is it? how are people building it? why does it matter?

Carnegie UK

FIERY SPIRITS
Community of Practice
building vibrant resilient communities across the UK, Ireland & beyond
1) It’s about People
Arnstein's Ladder
(interpreted by the NI Assembly re Children's Commissioner)
Arnstein, S. (1969) A Ladder of Citizen Participation in the USA,

Eight levels of young people's participation
(The ladder metaphor is borrowed from the essay on adult participation by Sherry Arnstein)
2) It’s about **Culture**: Inclusive Sense of Place
3) It’s about Communities Stewarding Assets

T HE COMMUNITY of Camuscrooss and Duisdale in south Skye will soon become the proud owners of All Duisdale reservoir; only the eighth community in Scotland to purchase land under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act.

They plan to develop the reservoir as a micro-hydro scheme and hope to work with the local grazings committee to find a site for the generator shed.

The project started in February 2009 when Camuscrooss and Duisdale Initiative (CDI) became aware that the small, redundant Scottish Water reservoir had been offered for sale by auction in Glasgow. With only thirteen days to go, they immediately contacted the community asset branch of the Scottish government to see if they could use the Land Reform Act to stop the asset from being sold on the open market. Working with Skye Community Trust, they successfully persuaded Scottish Water to withdraw the reservoir from auction, which gave CDI time to put in a “registration of interest in land” under the land reform act.

The registration of interest in land process is not one which community companies can enter lightly – the initial complicated application form was just the start of the process. Once the application had been accepted by the Scottish government, there were a number of other procedures to get through, all with very strict deadlines. At any of these hurdles, the project could have been stopped in its tracks.

It was only when CDI received the letter from Awards for All in February 2010, to say that the application for £6,637 to purchase the reservoir had been successful, that the community company knew that all the months of hard work had paid off. HEW’s Community Land Unit is also assisting the project by funding the conveyancing costs of the purchase.

Once the reservoir is in community ownership, the next step will be to conduct a more detailed study into the design, plan and economics of the hydro scheme, prior to getting the funding to develop the project, and begin to implement a biodiversity plan for the reservoir and small strip of land around it.

CDI hopes to use the existence of the rights given to crofting communities under the Land Reform Act to negotiate the purchase of land from the landlord for the generator shed for the hydro scheme. Although most people know about the large community buy-outs, such as those in the Western Isles which have been made possible because of the existence of this legislation, the possibility of using the act to negotiate purchase of small pieces of land, currently under crofting tenure, for example for renewable energy projects, seems to have been little explored.

The community company has an excellent relationship with Camuscrooss grazings committee, whose forward thinking attitude means that CDI is able to consider a number of partnership projects involving common grazings land – including affordable housing sites, farm buildings and heritage projects. The aim is that these projects will bring both wide community benefit and also generate income for the grazings committee to reinvest in crofting activities and infrastructure. The grazings committee is particularly committed to being willing to consider releasing land for community projects, as it has one of the most full grazings around – with only approximately 350 acres and 37 shareholders!

As the number of community companies and trusts grows each year, there are many exciting possibilities in the crofting counties for community trusts to work actively with crofters and grazings committees on projects which could bring both agricultural and wider community benefit. Perhaps just as importantly, such joint projects have the potential to increase goodwill towards crofters and increase the value and status placed on the crofting system by the community.

Our thanks to Susan Walker for this report.
4) It’s about connections

"You can’t just have one resilient town, you need to link into other communities, and their learning..."
We found:
It can be helpful to think of three *states* of ‘community resilience’:
We found:

It can be helpful to remember four ‘dimensions’

Healthy Engaged People
“I’m happy and fit in mind and body”

Inclusive, creative culture
“We’re confident in our diversity – creating a great future together”

Localised economy within ecological limits
“We steward our land, food, water, energy, services, jobs, housing”

Cross-community links
“We collaborate with other communities near and far – we know no place can go it alone”
Exercise 2: Strengths of my place
Exercise 2: Resilience Compass for my place
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Break Through</th>
<th>Break Even</th>
<th>Break Down</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>People</strong></td>
<td>Feel excited by change; take risks; active learning</td>
<td>Feel in control and able to plan ahead</td>
<td>Feel isolated and cautious</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Culture</strong></td>
<td>Re-create local story to fit changing times</td>
<td>Celebrate sense of place &amp; belonging</td>
<td>Only consuming outsider culture</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Economy</strong></td>
<td>Localised economy, many ‘virtuous circles’</td>
<td>Diverse infrastructure and organisations</td>
<td>Too many eggs in one basket</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Links</strong></td>
<td>Pro-active cross-community collaboration</td>
<td>Networking with like-minded folk</td>
<td>Survivalism: hunker down</td>
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*’It's not about waiting for the storm to pass but learning to dance in the rain.’*
Our Deepest Fear
– Marianne Williamson

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.

It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous?

Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small doesn't serve the world.

There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.

It's not just in some of us, it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give others permission to do the same.

As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.