

May Days with BWL

Bringing the tapestry together

Concept development workshops and open events

**BIOREGIONAL
WEAVING
LAB**

Waterford

West Waterford: Dromana House on the Blackwater River

Workshop (residential): 3pm Wed 24th May till 11.30am Thurs 25th May

Open event: 12-1.30pm 25th May



East Waterford: Coastguard Cultural Centre in Tramore

Workshop: 9-11.30am Friday 26th May

Open event: 12-1.30pm Friday 26th May



Aims and participants

Aims: Building on previous workshops and gatherings, we wanted to move on to deepen our **collective capability** to make **change** towards the **vision** of the bioregion's **co-created food manifesto** and the **overall BWL mission** (see recap slides and earlier reports). To do this we organised workshops to develop what we refer to as 'emerging holistic concepts', while at the same time acknowledging the importance of deepening personal relationships and maintaining inclusive open spaces for people interested in a more general understanding of what we are doing. To this end we undertook events at each end of the bioregion, on consecutive days, and delivered two concept workshops, one of them residential, and two open events.

The aims were summarised as follows:

1. To **add value to emerging and existing concepts** that could make major impact on **4 Returns** (social, natural, inspirational and economic)
2. To increase **skills around communicating and presenting such concepts to funders and investors** – for example at the Bioregional Funding event planned for **September 8th 2023**, EIPs or other co-funding opportunities.
3. To enable important stakeholders in the bioregion to **get to know each other** better than is possible at shorter events, and **deepen our changemaking capacities**
4. To have shorter open **inclusive events** for people wanting to gain general understanding of BWL.

Participants:

Dromana Days - concept workshop		Tramore - concept workshop		Open Events		Convenors	
John Carney	Farmer	Una Fitzpatrick	National Biodiversity Centre	Brid Nowlan		Sarah Prosser	BWL Ireland
Bridget Carney	Farmer	Damian Nicholls	Copper Coast Permaculture	Nora O'Connor		Pieter Ploeg	Commonland
Mick Kelly	GIY	Suzie Nicholls	Place-based SE	Lynne Glasscoe			
Mike Walsh	SETU	Ray McGrath	Older People's Council	Ithel McKenna			
Robbie Galvin	Copper Coast Geopark	Sally Sweeney	Transition Tramore	Nicholas Grubb	Dromana House		
Ray McGrath	Older People's Council	Chris Betts	Tramore Ecogroup	John Kiersey	Famer		
Peter Connolly	Dunhill Eopark	Juergen Bauer	Architecture, SETU	Vinnie O'Shea	Waterford Council, Health		
Orla Veale	Dunhill Eopark	Gary Graham	Hortitude	Ann Marie Daniels			
Catherine Barron	Artist	Marc Ó Cathasaigh	TD Green Party	Seánie Comerford	GIY		
Richard Murphy	Organic grain farmer	Fiona Coad	Coastguard Cultural Centre	Merijn de Jong	Small-holder farmer		
Eleanor Murphy	Organic grain farmer	Richard Murphy	Organic Grain Farmer	Plus others who stayed over from concept workshops			
Donal Sheehan	Dairy farmer						
Helen Kavanagh	Dunhill Multi-Education Centre						

Concepts - summary

Analysis of the ideas, innovations and regenerative ways of running farms, businesses and communities that have emerged from stakeholders in the bioregion over the past year, and input from individual follow-up and deeper conversations, has given us an initial list of what we refer to as 'emerging holistic concepts'. These are not exclusive – other concepts are out there, it is just that these are the ones showing up in the space for now.

The list of concepts below is provided to set the scene - see further into this report for more details,. There is a large degree of overlap between the concepts – which is symptomatic of the issues we are working with and of importance when considering them as a single entangled portfolio.

1. **A mission driven geopark**
2. **Rural hubs and 4R (4 Returns) valleys**
3. **Older people as changemakers**
4. **New farms, new farming, new farmers**
5. **Good food for all – consumer/producer contact**
6. **Weaving as a platform for change**
7. Community-led land use management
8. **Local communities for collective eco-impact**
9. Rivers and seas: for and by communities

Through-going themes: education and capacity building, maps, creativity, systems change etc.

Concepts in **bold** are the ones that were represented at the 'May Days' events at Dromana and Tramore, the others are equally important though concept holders could not be present this time.



Session 1

Recap on what we have done so far and how the concepts emerged

The full set of slides used in this session is provided at the end of this report as [Appendix 1](#).

The pages in the appendix are selected from comprehensive reports of each previous BWL event available under 'past events' on our webpage [here](#).

How the concepts emerged: timeline and outcomes



See [Appendix 1](#) for detailed slides. Full reports describing development process and outcomes leading to ten emerging concepts are available under 'past events' [here](#)



Session 2

Developing concepts Part 1

- The quest?
- What is missing?

Collective concept development

Aim: To develop the concepts further through collective intelligence and consideration.

Method: The first part of a method called 'Proactive Café'. Concept 'holders' volunteered to host a space. The other participants visited a chosen concept and asked the first question before rotating and asking the second at a second concept.

Question 1: What is your quest?

Question 2: What is missing?

Concepts that were addressed during Dromana and Tramore workshops are as follows:

NB: The holders were just for these workshop sessions and not necessarily intended as formal holders going forward.

1. **A mission driven geopark** - Holder: Robbie Galvin
2. **Rural hubs and 4R valleys** - Holder: Helen Kavanagh
3. **Older people as changemakers** - Holder: Ray McGrath
4. **New farms, new farming, new farmers** - Holder: Mick Kelly, Gary Graham, Richard Murphy, Mike Walsh...
8. **Local communities for collective eco-impact** - Holder: Suzie Nicholls

Not discussed at May Days but developing outside of workshop:

5. Good food for all – consumer/producer contact
6. Weaving as a platform for change
7. Community-led land use management
8. Rivers and seas: for and by communities



Collective concept development – notes

4. New farms, new farming, new farmers

3. Older people as changemakers

Richard - relatively easy transition for 7 days or dairy to start veg + year could be incentivized.

Farm school for people with no ~~market~~ knowledge - to learn a little - not quite a cert or diploma but just dip in?

- Richard - there are farmers out there who would be to be part of CSA

- what's missing - abstract - farmers market not as source of income for farmers

new definitions of farmer:
 - doesn't have to be the queer perspective of ~~interest~~ to CSA / Hellenb. farming - mobilise / inclusion → re-establish connection with food / GIY
 - citizens to feel like farmers

New farming
 - Hellenboeder
 - Mike Walsh → Richard → move away from extractive farming approach / SETU
 - Robin Glen → HB/CSA doesn't have to be owned land - could be leased. The members



Older people as CM
 1) to develop + normalise the potential of older people to be CM.
 Not seen as dealing with pol. People asking how to contribute. Need to be useful.
 One step hub to develop as more aware of what's important perspective history - terrible things got me to look at things.
 The number of people conversations grandchildren to influence change rate of change of modern life but do these things to offer already activities - buying food grandkids → need to be seen as having skills that could be sold - some generation? Older people have skills to train in - growing food - strawberries, - eat people based - potato leaf - healthy knowledge is a power.

Waterford Institute of Technology
 Waterford
 WIT
 Waterford

ROLE of NEAR-60's in inspiring and leading a career, volunteer, ~~interest~~

Develop and normalise the change making potential of the over 60's.

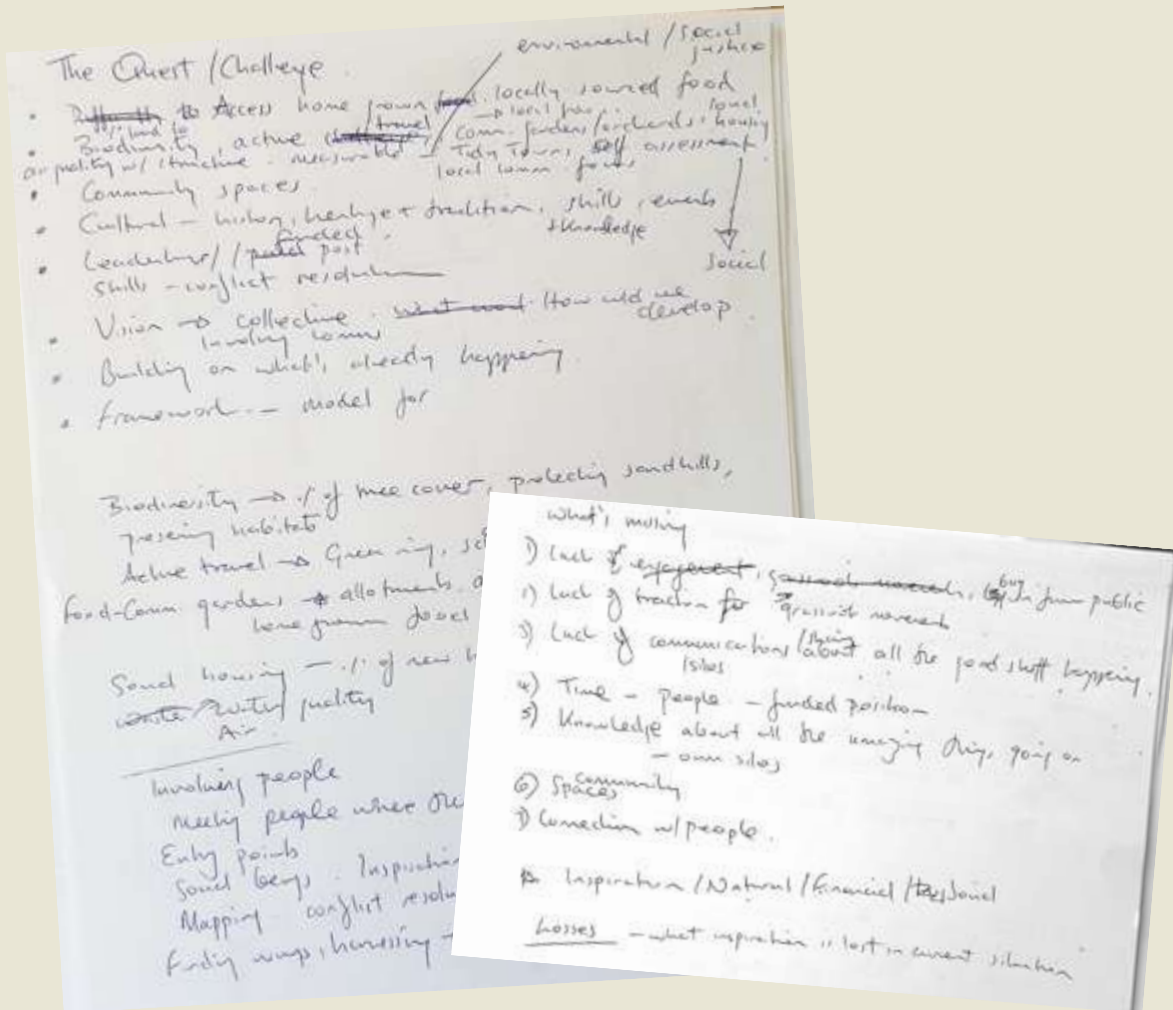
Healthy older people are a valuable asset overlooked Resource for most creating a healthier, safer and environmentally sustainable future.

Older people are undervalued, well placed to be ONE aspect primary to achieving the in the environment developer in the provision of a one stop Resource/Resource that for lifelong activities. This would be a central to social agencies and organisations. This hub could be a recreation include social development services - education, training, recreation, independent point and practical social enterprises in retirement.

1) particular focus must be the development of lifelong older people programs knowledge and skill especially in mentoring and professional opportunities (career) that would be provided through socially responsible community centres.

Collective concept development – notes

8. Local communities for collective eco-impact – Tramore case



Reflection – Dromana

Aim: to use the last part of the residential workshop, the evening meal and after dinner time to informally discuss the emerging concepts and build deeper relationships through interpersonal unstructured conversation.





Session 3

Developing concepts Part 2

- Four Losses
- Four Returns

The 4 Returns Framework

Background:

1. The **4 Returns framework** is a fundamental part of the BWL methodology. It is based on experience in large-scale landscape restoration around the world, and developed by Commonland. You can read more about it [here](#)
2. The 'returns' can be thought of as capital – we want to generate financial capital, social capital, natural capital and inspirational capital across the bioregion. These will look different in different Landscape Zones and in the different concepts.
3. A **common language** of four losses and four returns enables us to aggregate the capital being generated in the bioregion, and to communicate between and beyond the emerging concepts – including to potential investors and funders.



<https://commonland.com/4-returns-framework/>

The 4 Returns framework as method relevant for investments

Paul Chatterton (He/Him) • Following
Lead and Founder at Landscape Finance Lab
3d • Edited

As ever, the #Forestry and #Agriculture #Investment Summit in London this week delivered. This conference measures the pulse of current financial solutions for #climate and #nature better than any other I know.

Some takeaways:

- Green solutions are becoming serious business. **David Brand** explained the strategy of **New Forests** whose forest carbon portfolio exceeds \$10B and is now diversifying into agriculture, landscape funds and fintech.
- Landscapes were ubiquitous. The landscape approach was mentioned in every panel with investments developing such as the New Forest Landscape Fund and Big Coast Forest fund in Canada. More alignment is now needed on methodology eg. around the 4 Returns Framework for Landscape Restoration. <https://lafd.in/ehRuBbDY>
- Carbon markets are moving towards scale. The Guardian stories have rocked the industry. The consensus is that most projects are solid but integrity now has to be paramount. New methodologies such as ART TREES are encouraging action at #jurisdictional scale but this is complex and still moving far too slowly.
- Biodiversity credits are the new thing. **Botanic Gardens Conservation International** presented their new Global Biodiversity Standard which calibrates reward proportional to how much an action increases the population of a threatened species. Very smart!
- And finally investors remain wary. Investment safety remains paramount and deal speed is slow. There is an urgent need for simplification and integration of systems and further improvement of the integrity and commercial quality of projects. #Digital solutions will be a major help here.

‘This conference measures the pulse of current financial solutions for climate and nature better than any other I know’

‘Landscapes (bioregion) were ubiquitous. The landscape approach was mentioned in every panel with investments’.

‘More alignment is now needed on methodology e.g. around the 4 Returns Framework’

The 4 Losses and Returns

Methodology

1. A group for each concept being addressed in this workshop mapped what losses are currently happening in the bioregion, or sub-part of the bioregion relevant to their concept.
2. They then summarised what four returns would look like.

These boxes are part of a larger canvas – the 4 returns business canvas that we can use later in the developing each concept

1. 4 losses		2. to 4 returns	
Loss of inspiration What inspiration is lost in the current situation? Think about: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Loss of hope & purpose- Loss of trust & a common vision- Loss of confidence- Loss of security- Loss of belonging and pride	Loss of social capital What social capital is lost in the current situation? Think about: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Loss of jobs- Loss of income- Loss of knowledge and skills- Loss of health- Loss of social cohesion / community	Return of inspiration What inspiration should be returned to the landscape in your vision? Think about: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A common vision- Return of purpose- Return of trust- Return of pride, a local identity & art- Empowerment and a return of confidence	Return of social capital What social capital should be returned to the landscape in your vision? Think about: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- More meaningful jobs- Secure livelihoods- Network & exchange- Knowledge and skills- Return of health and well-being- Social cohesion / community
Loss of natural capital What natural capital is lost in the current situation? Think about: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Loss of ecosystem functions- Soil & water degradation- Pollution & waste emissions- Loss of biodiversity & habitat- Climate change aggravation- Natural disaster vulnerability	Loss of financial capital What financial capital is lost in the current situation? Think about: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Loss of profits, ROI, and tax revenues;- Lack of access to capital to grants, donations, subsidies, and loan guarantees;- Emergency / disaster costs	Return of natural capital What natural capital should be returned to the landscape in your vision? Think about: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Return of ecosystem functions & resilience- Soil and water quantity & quality- Circular streams- Return of biodiversity & habitat- Climate adaptation/mitigation	Return of financial capital What financial capital should be returned to the landscape in your vision? Think about: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Increased profits, ROI, and tax revenues- More grants, donations, subsidies and loan guarantees- A prevention/reduction of disaster costs

Concepts - 4 Losses and 4 Returns

4. New farms, new farming, new farmers

4. New farms, new farming, new farmers

LOSSES		NEW FARMING NEW FARMS		RETURNS	
inspiration loss of empathy - connects the - appreciation of value of food - loss benefits of new way of farming <small>with poor criticism</small>	social capital loss of universal knowledge of time	inspiration farmers to be climate heroes	social capital spiritual knowledge opportunities for interaction		
natural capital loss of biodiversity and everyday life loss of vernacular rural architecture loss of shade, landscape habitat	financial capital loss of capital for capital loss of finance middle man	natural capital gain/restore biodiversity	financial capital capture the return (realised direct market)		

LOSS OF INSPIRATION - Disconnection from the environment (nature) - Loss of connection - People feeling disconnected - Disconnection from the land - Loss of connection - Loss of connection - Loss of connection	LOSS OF SOCIAL CAP - Loss of connection - Loss of connection - Loss of connection - Loss of connection - Loss of connection - Loss of connection - Loss of connection	RETURN OF INSPO - Gain of connection - Gain of connection - Gain of connection - Gain of connection - Gain of connection - Gain of connection - Gain of connection	RETURN OF SOCIAL - Gain of connection - Gain of connection - Gain of connection - Gain of connection - Gain of connection - Gain of connection - Gain of connection
LOSS OF FINANCIAL CAPITAL - Loss of connection - Loss of connection - Loss of connection - Loss of connection - Loss of connection - Loss of connection - Loss of connection	LOSS OF NATURAL CAPITAL - Loss of connection - Loss of connection - Loss of connection - Loss of connection - Loss of connection - Loss of connection - Loss of connection	RETURN OF FINANCIAL CAPITAL - Gain of connection - Gain of connection - Gain of connection - Gain of connection - Gain of connection - Gain of connection - Gain of connection	RETURN OF NAT CAPITAL - Gain of connection - Gain of connection - Gain of connection - Gain of connection - Gain of connection - Gain of connection - Gain of connection

Concepts - 4 Losses and 4 Returns

3. Older people as changemakers

OLDER PEOPLE AS SOCIAL CAPITAL		RE-IMAGINED DEFINITION of Community DEVELOPMENT	
<p>LOSSES</p> <p><u>INSPIRATION</u></p> <p>PURPOSE } ENERGY } DEPENDENCY INVOLVEMENT PARTICIPATION VISION OF BETTER FUTURE</p>	<p><u>SOCIAL CAPITAL</u></p> <p>EXPERIENCE KNOWLEDGE PARTICIPATION VISITING ↓ YOUNGER SPENDING TIME WITH OLDER.</p>	<p>RETURNS</p> <p><u>INSPIRATION</u></p> <p>LIFE EXPERIENCE LONGEVITY HEALTHY LIVING MINDFULNESS ACTIVE LIVING BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE</p>	<p><u>SOCIAL CAPITAL</u></p> <p>HELPING VOLUNTEERING MENTORING SHARING SOCIAL PRESCRIBING "BLUE ZONE" YOUTH CLUB CHN</p>
<p><u>NATURAL CAPITAL</u></p> <p>LANDSCAPE NEGLECT</p> <p>↓ WITH CLIENTS CAREFUL SETTING OF CONTRACT TERMS FOR MAINTENANCE CONTRACTORS ↓ PACE OF CONSTRUCTION Budget to do things right!</p>	<p><u>FINANCIAL CAPITAL</u></p> <p>RESENTMENT OF CARE COST</p>	<p><u>NATURAL CAPITAL</u></p> <p>SHARING OUTDOOR SPACE OWNERSHIP ARTISTIC CREATIVITY GARDENING WITH YOUNGER PEOPLE BAKING " "</p> <p>WASTED GREEN SPACES PERMEABILITY. COMMUNITY SPACES - AGORA</p>	<p><u>FINANCIAL CAPITAL</u></p> <p>BANK OF MUM + DAD GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT WITH SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR HEALTH CARE SAVINGS</p>

2. Rural hubs and 4R valleys – Dunhill case



Concepts - 4 Losses and 4 Returns

8. Local communities for collective eco-impact – Tramore case

LOCAL COMMUNITY FOR COLLECTIVE ECO-IMPACT			
LOSSES		RETURNS	
<p>Inspiration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empowerment Trust Pride Co-ordination Time Hope 	<p>Social Capital</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge Traditions + lore Skills Belonging to a place Social cohesion Comm. spaces Health - mental/physiol Fragmented political landscape Eco. transport system. 	<p>Inspiration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community purpose Increased pride of place Shared vision Inclusive vision with a framework Community hub - online / comm pop up space, markets. Trust - open + transparent 	<p>Social Capital</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better transport systems - buses, safe roads for active travel. Healthier, social place to live Support systems Skills/Knowledge sharing between generations Preservation of all the good things
<p>Natural capital</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity Air quality Soil Water quality Climate resilience Habitats 	<p>Financial capital</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of support for community Access to local funding sources Lack of investment in community cohesion Lack of investment in tourism Job losses 	<p>Natural capital</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiverse environment (Air + water quality measurements + action) Maximise asset, meaning against environmental + social target. Climate resilience Healthy soil - leading to local food systems 	<p>Financial capital</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule of celebratory events Vibrant town where people want to live + work Job gains Example town - attracting investment Funded community spaces.

2. Rural hubs and 4R valleys – Dunhill case

<p>Inspiration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agency over local landscape - No stray cultural identity - No movement for positive change. No trust in stakeholders. - No dynamic leadership - No platform for local involvement - Forgotten Communities living 	<p>Social</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seasonal jobs/facilities - Lack of housing - Lack of voluntary groups/projects - Lack of support for community action - Over reliance on private transport - Lack of sustainability/healthily - Lack access to healthy food - Lack of communication/inputs 	<p>Local</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A co-created common vision for the future 	<p>Social</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Livable villages/ thriving, increased well-being - Increased capacity for social + econ. dev.
<p>Natural</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poor biodiversity - Water Quality issues - Lack of access to Nature - Intensive agriculture - Lack of sensitive knowledge 	<p>Lost financial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not capitalizing income potential locally - No structural funding - Flo. based Dist. funding for active residents 	<p>Natural</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accessible, biodiverse places (land + sea) managed by engaged stewards 	<p>Financial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Long term financial unrestricted support - Increased inc. More sustainable livelihoods, regenerative businesses



Session 4

Developing concepts Part 3

- Theory of Change

Part 3 – Theory of Change

Aim: To consider what steps must be done to deliver on the 4 Returns identified in each concept

Method: A Theory of Change, or Logic Framework, was used at this stage of concept development. We recognise the ToC is a linear tool, while BWL is highly dependent on the emergence of concepts from highly entangled ecosystems. The four returns were placed at the righthand side of the template. Activities for addressing symptoms, systems and mindsets were included.

Due to the shorter timeframe, this was only conducted in full at Dromana.

The quest

(Concept Development Part 1)



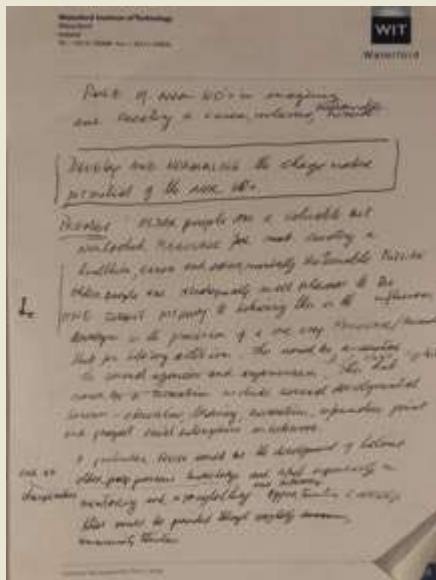
4 losses, 4 returns

(Concept Development Part 2)



Theory of change

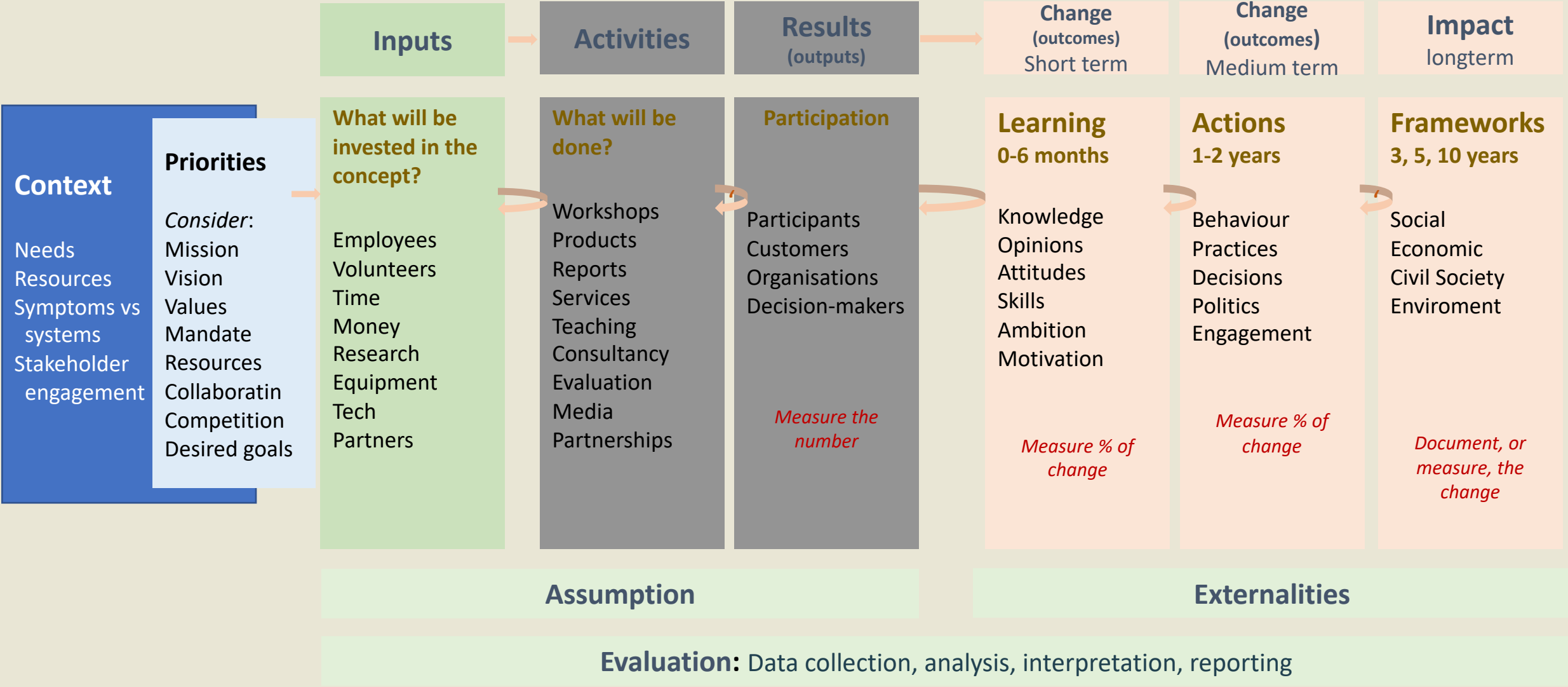
(Concept Development Part 3)



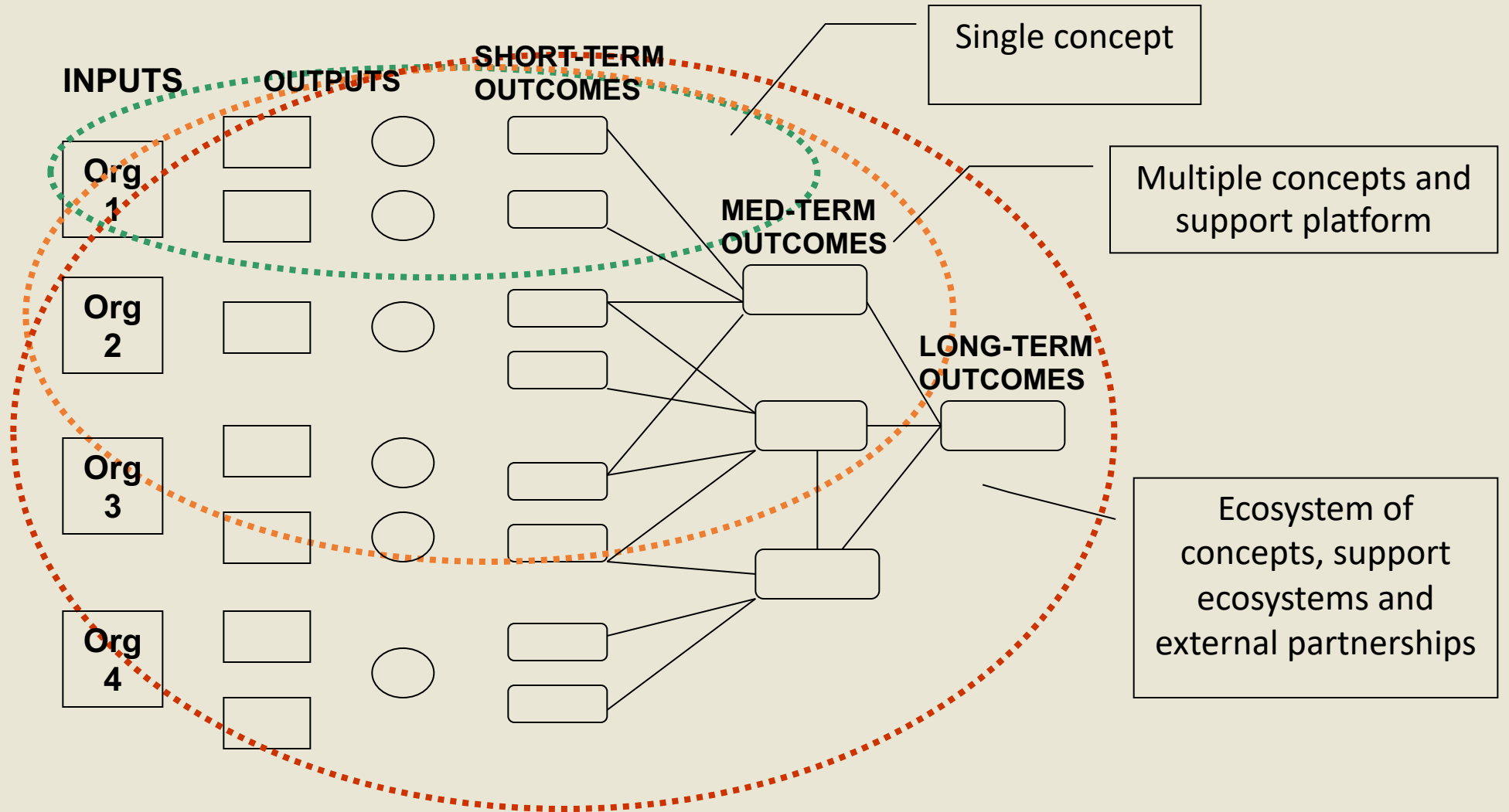
OLDER PEOPLE AS SOCIAL CAPITAL			
LOSSES	SOCIAL CAPITAL	RETURNS	SOCIAL CAPITAL
INSPIRATION PURPOSE ENERGY DEPENDENCY INVOLVEMENT	EXPERIENCE KNOWLEDGE PARTICIPATION VISITING	INSPIRATION LIFE EXPERIENCE LONGEVITY HEALTHY LIVING MINDFULNESS ACTIVE LIVING EMBRACING THE DIGITAL DEVICE	HOLDING VOLUNTEERING MENTORING SHARING SOCIAL PRESCRIBING "BLUE ZONE"
NATURAL CAPITAL	FINANCIAL CAPITAL	NATURAL CAPITAL	FINANCIAL CAPITAL
LANDSCAPE ASPECT	RESULTANT OF CARE COST	SHARING OUTDOOR SPACE ARTISTIC CREATIVITY GARDENING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE BANKING	BANK OF MUM + DAD GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT WITH SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR HEALTH CARE SAVINGS

	INPUTS	ACTIVITIES	RESULTS	CHANGE (SHORT TERM)	CHANGE (MEDIUM TERM)	LONG TERM
PRIORITIES	RESOURCE	NEEDING TO DO	PARTICIPATION - WHO	LEARNING	ACTION	FRAMEWORK CHANGE
MENTORING	PEOPLE-INSPIRED SKILLED EXPERIENCE	INFORMATION TRAINING PRIORITIES	HSE SPECIFIC GROUPS	FINANCIAL POTENTIAL	IMPROVEMENT AGENCY POTENTIAL INFLUENCE	BALANCED LIFESTYLE FULFILMENT LIFE STAGE CENTRE
HEALTHY LIVING	RESEARCH DEMONSTRATION CHAMPION VALUE	PARK RUN GROUP RUN WALKING GROUP FOOD AS MEDICINE	WELL INFORMED PEOPLE SOCIAL PRESCRIBING	NEL BANK	WEIGHT LOSS	HEALTH CARE SAVING

Theory of Change / Logic Model

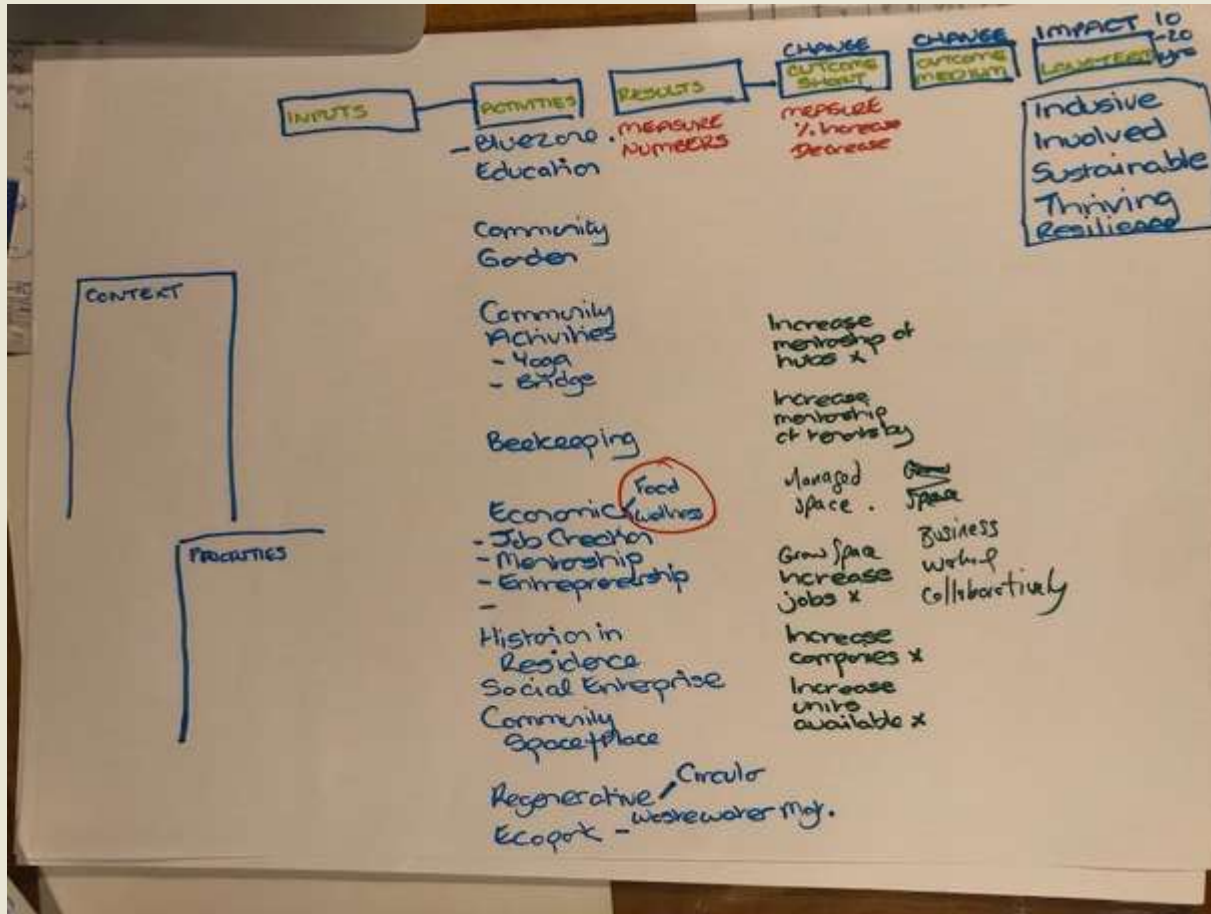


Collective impact – logic model

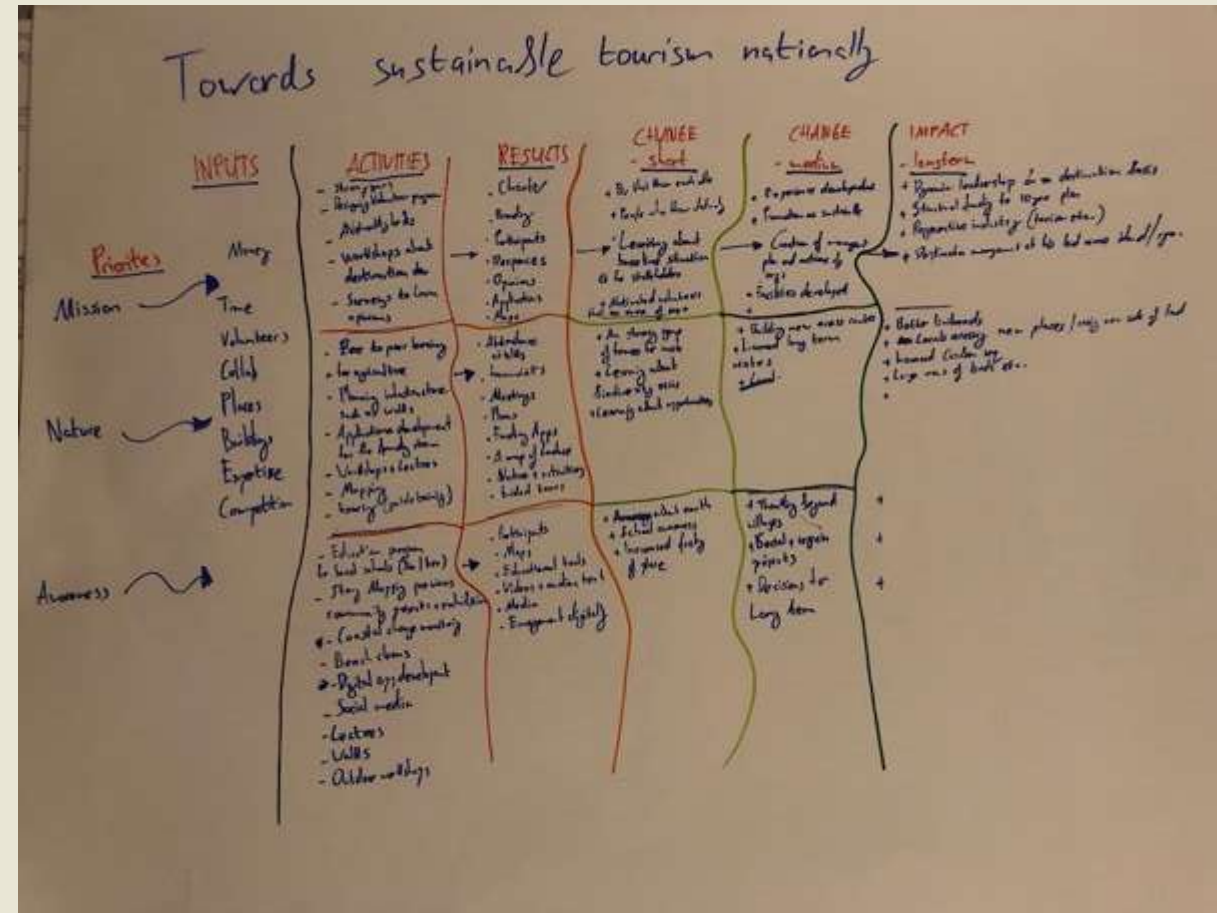


Concepts – Theory of Change

2. Rural hubs and 4R valleys – Dunhill case

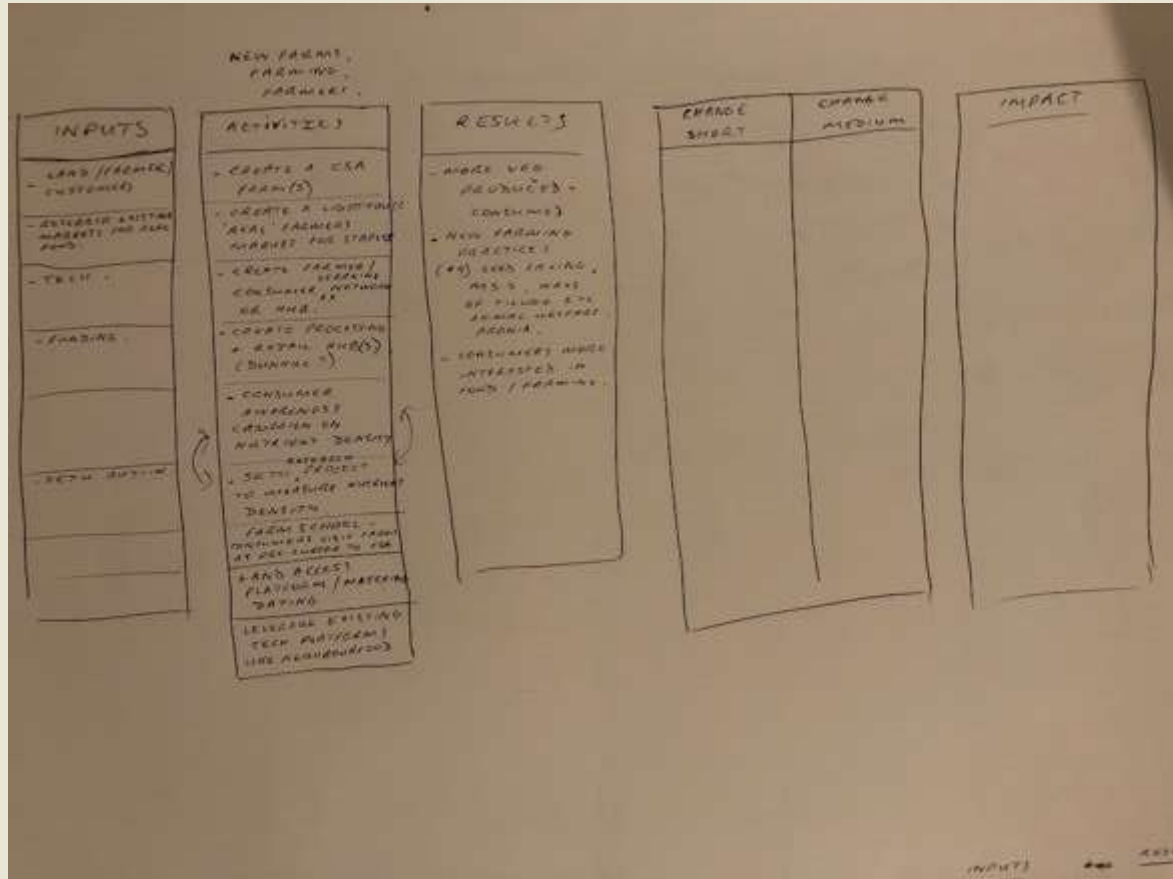


1. A mission driven geopark

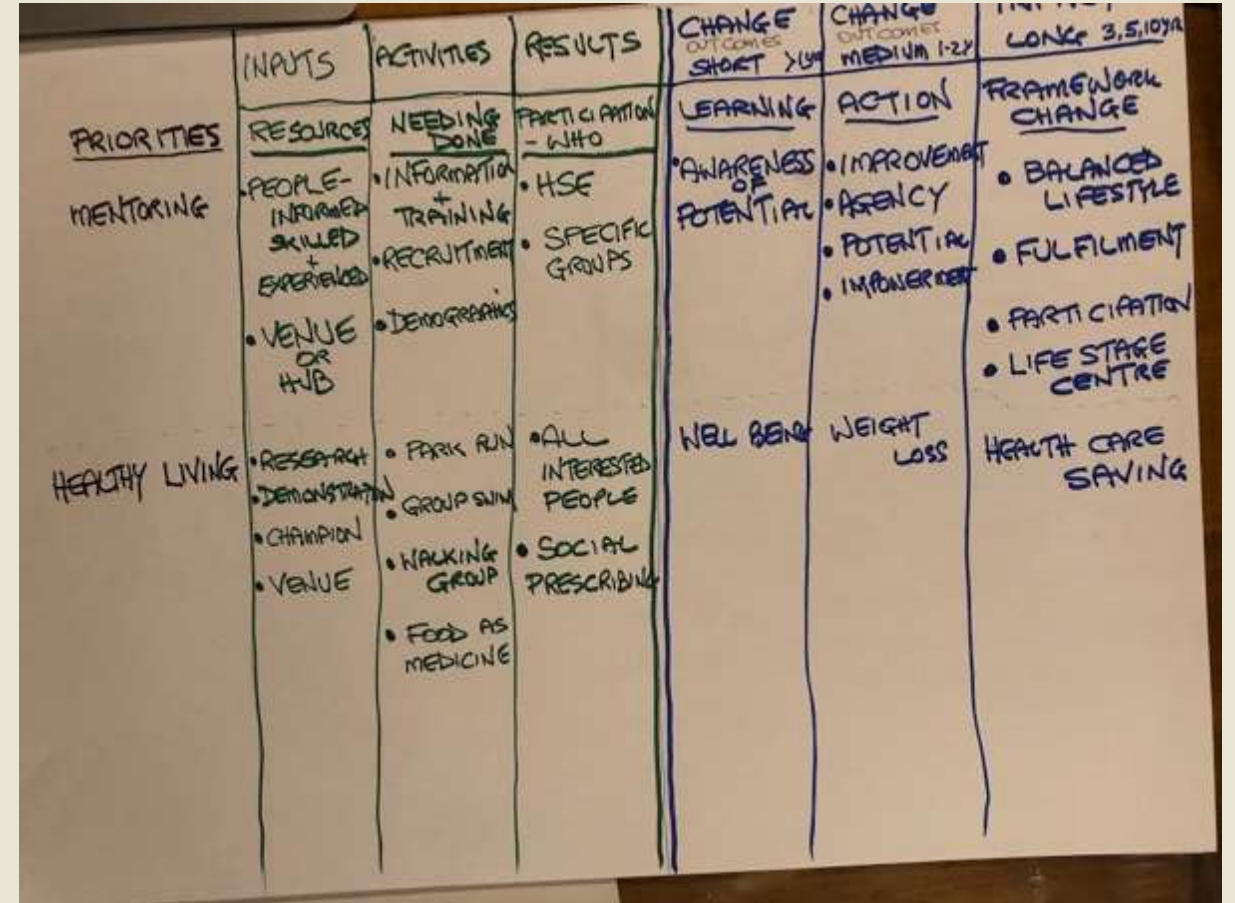


Concepts – Theory of Change

4. New farms, new farming, new farmers



3. Older people as changemakers





Reflections and next steps

Some feedback from participants

Seeing the BWL bring together a diverse group of people to evolve and develop ideas has been such a positive experience. No one doubts the scale of the challenge, but what I've taken so far is the overwhelming sense of optimism that together we're on the cusp of something better. *Una Fitzpatrick*

I found the concept development workshop was very insightful. It provided a framework of ideas to explore. The variety of different participants was great as they all brought lots of ideas and opinions to consider. This is the start/ progression of an exciting journey.

Eleanor Murphy

Thanks for this event: I certainly got something out of it. I made some good connections with interesting people, heard some interesting stories/ideas and solidified my understanding on the 4R's process.

Robbie Galvin

I found the two days nothing short of inspirational. *Peter Conolly*

Great session in Tramore! *Gary Graham*



Next steps of concept development

June – Reflection after May Days at Dromana and Tramore, further development of individual concepts.

July – Focussed individual and collective concept development – Sarah to support to weave collective impact and support as required (let's arrange a time now?).

August – Everyone has enough holiday and a bit of time for working on consolidation of concepts

September – Refine communicating the emerging portfolio of concepts to present at finance event on 8th September

8th and 9th September – SAVE THE DATE

Holistic community and landscape finance

The case of the Waterford bioregion

An international event embedded in a local place-based example to share what we know, and don't know, about funding whole communities and landscapes in a way that supports and drives long-term positive change.

Other ongoing and upcoming BWL activities

Ongoing work: Application for EU Horizon call; Conversations with DAFM and Climate KIC; Mapping the bioregion (GIS grant); Community water map (LAWPRO grant); Writing the Landscape Plan; Weaving partnerships, place, people, projects within bioregion, within the BWL European Collective and beyond; Smaller Interreg Grant; Community climate action funds; Submissions to EIP hearing and Climate Action Plan.

June 28th and 29th June - **Groundswell – Regenerative Farming Festival** in England. Sarah, Pieter and Donal are sitting on a panel discussion, it will be filmed and we will share, but why not come along too – fantastic festival, see the programme [here](#).

Opportunities for anyone in BWL Irish network to join BWL European backbone organisations' knowledge and training events:

- 22nd June, 8-9.30am. **'Access to land and the Commons'** – a webinar led by Commonland. More info and sign up [here](#).
- 29th June – **'Diversifying funding streams and Changemaker Finance'** – training led by Ashoka. Info and sign up [here](#)

July **Informal BWL meet-ups:** Join Sarah and other BWL stakeholders on **Sunday 2nd** (late morning) or **Tuesday 4th** (evening) July to catch-up, hear more about the emerging concepts and add any thoughts. Details to follow – **save the date**.

September 28th and 29th September. **12th National Landscape Forum**. BWL is partnering with the Landscape Alliance Ireland on the 12th National Landscape Forum, that this year will be held in Waterford – at Mount Congreve. Focus on 'Landscape Past, Landscape Future' and in particular missed opportunities from lack of implementation of The European Landscape Convention, Florence 2000. **Save the date** and read more [here](#)



Appendix 1

Recap on what we have done so far
and how the concepts emerged

Our aim is our mission

- Delivering the BWL mission - **and** from October 2022 the co-written manifesto
- Creating value in the bioregion - on 4Returns

Some principles

We work with:

- A landscape/bioregion as our scale
- Weaving for socio-ecological change
- Collective impact
- Systems change and mindset shifts
- Systemic innovations
- The food system as our way in
- Nature based solutions
- Changemakers
- Lifting pockets of the future into the mainstream
- Regeneration, protection and restoration of the land

BWL collective mission

To mobilise **1 million changemakers** by 2025 to overcome **systemic** barriers and **restore, protect and regenerate 1 million** ha of Europe's land and sea, with significant impact on **4 Returns**, by 2030



Inspiration

Giving people hope and a sense of purpose.



Social Capital

Bringing back jobs, business activity, education and security.



Natural Capital

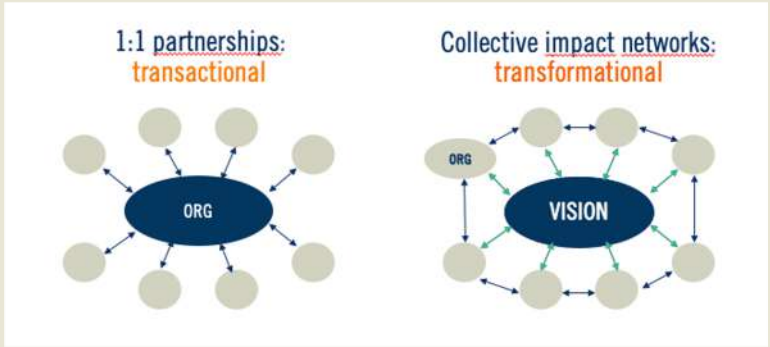
Restoring biodiversity, soil, water quality and capturing carbon.



Financial Capital

Realising long-term sustainable profit.

July 2022 – sensing the bioregion’s people, places and projects for potential systemic change and collective impact



World café question one:

What are the challenges for our landscape and our communities within it?

- Industrial agriculture
- More insular lives.
- Land ownership
- Lack of imagination and suppression of imagining. What if?
- Heads in the sand
- Education system that leads to jobs and empowerment
- Policy-making has driven us to this point
- Consumerism – waste, plastic, packaging, food. And how it links to the global food system – unsustainable production, transport and waste. Avocados from Mexico to Waterford. Milk and veg are not next to their markets.
- Loss of nutritional value in food – local apples vs. global packed in plastic.
- Loss of nature and of biodiversity.
- No culture of 'make do' and clothes being handed down.
- GDP – cut x to 1/10th of current levels.
- Doughnut economics is not applied
- Transition is difficult
- People are retreating from community – electronic devices, data, increase anxiety and depression. Not active transport.
- Nitrate
- Vegetables in trays – no aquaponics or hydroponics.
- Farms were self-sufficient in 70s and 80s. No longer.
- The need for instant gratification – which is a race to the bottom.
- Crises are conflicting – the environment is one crisis.
- Lack of policy and funding
- The news cycle – short term issues and distractions. Populism and self interest, leading to fear and anxiety. All making it hard to focus.
- Climate anxiety.
- The perfect storm of Brexit, Covid and Ukraine.
- Human selfishness – leading to inertia – self-interest and xx of change.
- Lack of incentive to act – financial, personal, own growth
- The need for new KPIs that focus on quality of life, cost of carbon, the expensive wrong things, the cheaper right things.
- All goals are economic outputs and growth targets. Waterford industry is put first. Trade and commerce focus.
- Eco-tourism is not nurtured – Corka way. Outdoor surfing in Tramore, sea-surfing, outdoor spaces in City. Growth of Dungarvan. City-New Ross?
- Dependence on Glanbia and reliant
- Lack of commitment over time
- Lack of rallying call to unite everyone
- Lack of accountability – carbon footprint of Waterford is either crisis. Tokemom, Green-washing, facade, signaling
- Slow to join dots and make connections.
- Lacking systems world view
- "Green" premiums: (Bill Gates): subject to power, wealth, inequality.
- Lobbyists
- Group thinking
- Lack of hope.
- Individuals care (political parties don't)

continued next page...

World café question two:

What has been done already?

- EIP European Innovation Partnership
- Ireland Pollinator Plan
- AGRI Environmental Plan
- Funding for habitat mapping
- National Biodiversity Data Centre
- Local eco groups
- Anne Valley Integrated Wetlands
- Origin Green
- Producer-led initiatives like The Bride Project and Meitheal
- Meitheal Trá na Rinne (oysters) run by run by Cliona Nic Giollaichuda operating in policy vacuum
- Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) – 12 principles
- Diageo – barley regenerative farms
- Schools – Green schools
- GIY – leading the way, understanding of food empathy. Growing own food is antithesis of global food system. Need to understand local produce. Connecting people with biodiversity and connecting the disconnect.
- Waterford Greenway
- LAWPRO – getting people to reengage people
- Dungarvan Harbour Partnership, Corrib Beo Model, a learning landscape
- Transition Town (2012)
- In Tramore: T3 – moving away from fossil fuels, ZCT (work in progress)
- Wild clams being farmed in Passage East
- Snap net fishing in Mooncoin fishing wild salmon
- Dunhill
- Men's sheds
- Annual Passage West
- CBD ecosystem approach
- National biodiversity conference
- National biodiversity centre is based here.
- Plastic bag levy
- Smoking ban
- Tourism: Greenway, Dungarvan, Tramore surfing, outdoor dining, sea-culture, tall ships.
- Flahavans – all organic oats
- Wetlands
- European innovation programmes – Meitheal, Trá na roinne (oysters)
- GIY
- Ardkene shopping
- Tramore organic ice-cream
- Pollination
- Festivals: imagine, Harvest, Spraci, Vitamin Sea (held in September when most iodine is in the sea due to seaweed breakdown).
- Wasted suppliers
- CAP budget
- Beef farming cooperation projects
- Media such as Brendan Carney in Irish Times – 'we need a massive rethink of Irish agriculture'.

continued next page...

Discussion-based trends and emerging patterns of where there is a need and motivation to do more

Community driven and more social/environmental focus for finance

- Financial redistribution back to where it started – farmers and community action
- Tramore as a town is full of good initiatives, but they are not joined up
- Citizen assemblies are respected and effective – locally and nationally

Organic and regenerative food and agriculture

- Must be truly regenerative or organic – role of certification and Ireland's goal of 7.5%
- Fertilizers must reduce by half or be eliminated
- No greenwashing allowed - transparency
- More plant-based food
- Space for nature must be part of our futures

The disconnect between policy and people

- Disconnect must be addressed – both in visible outcomes and financial flows
- We can act as a collective group to feed upwards to policy-makers

Big business

- Has a powerful role – without change here, change will be hard
- Pilots in the form of place (bioregion) – based labs could answer their mandates and give desired outcomes.
- Organic farmers must have a market – both supermarkets and new food distribution hubs.

Clustering of the system leverage points identified by participants

The bullet points below are directly transcribed from participant inputs on leverage points identified in the 3D systems modelling exercise, here rearranged into common themes.

Mindsets, relational focus and a common vision to rally around

- Vision
- Emotional shift – people feel this new model will benefit them
- The connection between the individual and community

Policy-making: shifting from profit to local food, empowering communities and councils

- Financial/incentive shift to promote local
- Tax system to give money for worth/co2/???
- Constitution, Bank, Financial policies to invest in sustainable food
- Public demand policy changes
- Empowered councils

Education

- Education system to pass on sustainability/inter dependence
- Education as a power of change
- Education & awareness of the public on the current system need for change and the benefit system change could deliver
- Information

Experimentation, innovation and pilots

- Pilot individual business/public sector/farmers

Possible actions

The actions below are based on the question posed in workshop closing session: 'What is needed next?' combined with analysis of the leverage points and trends emerging during workshop

Our common intent?

- Vision and rallying call – co-visioning workshop?
- Apply CBD ecosystem approach with 12 principles?
- Co-write a manifesto with key principles that people and organisations sign up to. Direct to mayors, local national ; decision makers.

Education

- Start with education - including on how to handle complexity
- Education initiative – need action now. What would that look like? Gather sub-group of teachers and others?
- GIY garden in every school in bioregion, with empowered teachers - linked to Irish Sustainability Network?
- Community garden in every community in bioregion?

Tramore as a town ambitious for tomorrow, and the next day

- An umbrella organisation to access resources?
- Community Innovates support joined up initiative like this – interested in being connected?
- Link to Participatory City model – community kitchens, gardens, social enterprise etc?
- Local restaurants (Mezze and others) club together to find young grower to be their supplier?
- Short food value chain study for whole town?

Support weaving and collective initiatives

- Establish representative discussion/advisory group for next six months
- Are weavers something to work for the bioregion? Where would funding come from? Explore.
- Attract 'support circle' – in-kind and financial.
- Position Waterford bioregional as leading example of weaving for systemic change? Talk and publish on this.
- Rotating host office and space for weaver and weaving initiative?

Collective response to policy-making

- Respond to EU consultation on sustainable food systems (deadline 21st July).
- Irish Citizen Assembly on Biodiversity – write a submission
- Consider establishing bioregional Citizen Assembly for food systems

Generational regeneration? (A 'new West Cork' - artists of the 70s/80s)

- Position Waterford bioregion as the place in Ireland for international people dedicated to this way of farming, eating, living to move to - e.g. for farms not being passed down intergenerationally.

Ecotourism - festivals

- Look for opportunities for both systemic and more visible collaboration with Harvest, Vitamin Sea, Imagine.
- Ice-cream and so much more.

Water, wetlands, rivers: the fire of life

- Anne Valley as a case of what can be replicated: wetlands, pollution community collaboration, landowners etc.
- Look at this as example of replication within and outside of bioregion

Farms and farmers as stewards and leaders

- Farming with Nature: The Bride Project as a case of what can be done, and extended across the bioregion.
- Look at this as example for replication within and outside of bioregion.
- Source evidence, tool-kits and overview of what is already done and working.

Possible pilot projects

These are concrete ideas from within the workshop, others will undoubtedly will emerge with time.

- **An organic/regen/biodiversity/farm with nature lab for Glanbia to step up and deliver.** Build the market for farmers – supermarkets and big business must guarantee a place. Write description of what this could look like. Get Glanbia on board to experiment? Be hyper-aware of greenwashing.
- **Organic Waterford:** 7% organic - speed up and get there in Waterford bioregion - work with partners to make plan.
- **Weave Waterford:** 'Weaving a community-led collective impact initiative for systems change' - give it a home, a place, a weaver, co-weavers etc. Be a centre of excellence for seeing how far this approach of linking fragmented initiatives for systems change can go.
- **Universal well-being KPIs:** If our landscapes, seascapes and communities are to thrive what KPIs, frameworks and models d we as communities want to see help document and steer this, if not profit alone. Four Returns, Doughnut economics, Green Deal, Farm to Fork, Ecosystem approach. Human and nature centred design. Do this work through Weave Waterford?
- **Public procurement:** anchor institutions across the bioregion for regenerative food procurement? *Find public partner to pilot? The hospital in Waterford? Tramore anchor institution?*
- **Farmers as ...as what?** Do they want to be leaders of this future? How to support and do pilot projects rooted in farmers of the future. Link to short value chains and new distribution hubs?
- **Tomorrow's Tramore** as a town within the bioregion showing how to build umbrellas and support platforms for mindset change, education of changemakers, local food chains, organic ice-cream and more.

Investigations to give more evidence-based direction to our work

Any future actions with impact will depend on information based in evidence. What questions must we be able to answer?

- How viable is a regenerative future?
- What would short food value chains look like in Waterford bioregion?
- What would properly supported joined-up community-led initiatives look like in Waterford bioregion, and towns such as Tramore?
- Education – is there a role for joined up action at all levels?
- Innovative communities – how far can we go?
- Place-based investment - where to unlock funding?
- Mindset-shifts and relational shifts – what works?
- The role of maps – what do we need and how to make them?

Mission

Workstreams

Projects
targeting systems change

Our vision
A biodiverse future with healthy ecosystems, regenerative economies and thriving communities, where solutions that work with nature and communities in landscapes are the norm and scale widely.

Our bioregion vision??
A resilient food system that supports thriving landscapes, seascapes and communities in the Waterford bioregion

Europe bioregions mission
To mobilise of 1 million changemakers by 2025 to overcome systemic barriers and restore, protect and regenerate of 1 million ha of Europe's land and sea, with significant impact on 4 Returns (social, natural, economic and inspiration) by 2030

Waterford Bioregion Mission
To mobilise of 64K changemakers by 2025 to overcome systemic barriers and restore, protect and regenerate of 64K ha of land and sea in the Waterford bioregion,, with significant impact on 4 Returns (social, natural, economic and inspiration) by 2030

A
Growing and supporting capacity for systems change
 Communications and lobbying, knowledge dissemination, BWL structure and roadmap

B
Tomorrow's Tramore, or any village/town

C
Our nature based bioregion

D
Food systems for universal well-being

Weaving, maps, collective action, system change, KPIs and 4returns, collaborative funding, learning platform for cluster topics

Education:
 Every child a changemaker. Environmental leadership

Participation:
 A public-social infrastructure for community-led engagement

Regeneration:
 farming and regenerative rural enterprises

NBS and SI:
 the norm - how to replicate deep and wide

New forms of partnerships:
 Targeted system change through pilots and proof.

Harvesting of reflections

Questions: Do you have burning opinions of possibilities in bioregion that were not captured in the workshop report?
Do the workstreams capture topics for next stage?

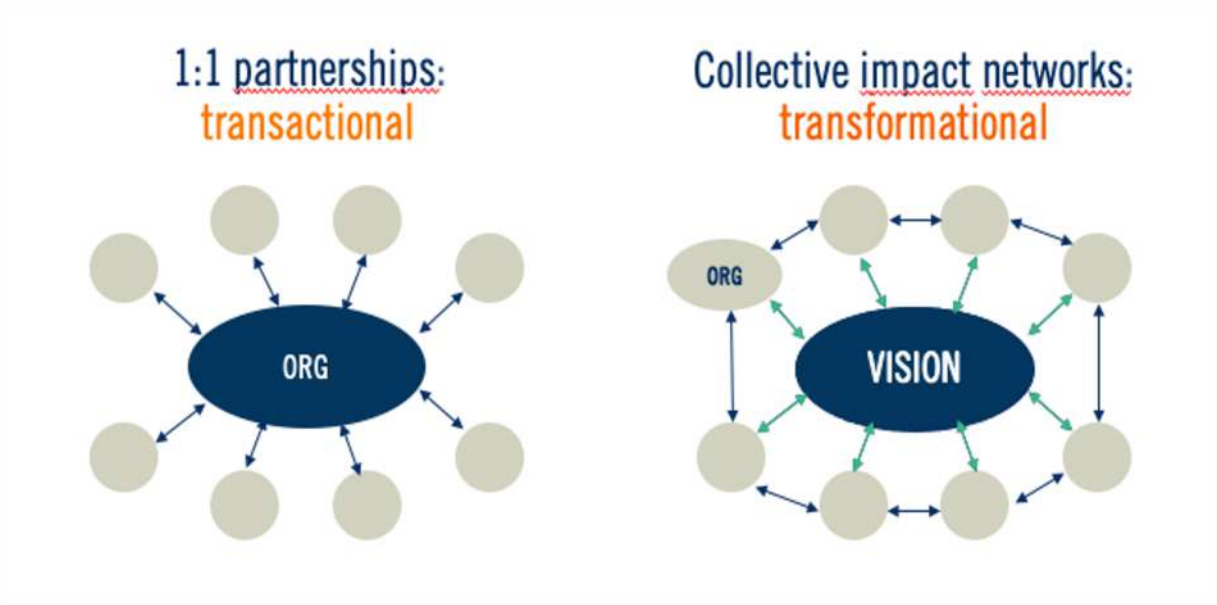
Reflections:

- Very happy to see Tramore as a case town – much potential there
- Community ownership and engagement in general should take more place
- People must be a clear part of this – how actions affects individuals and communities
- Missing the mention of planning and development anywhere – key in our regenerative futures
- Ecosystem approach is essential and must not be forgotten
- Schools do lots but are interested in engaging more with community around them
- We must find a way to let Tramore residents and children be closer to real nature
- Diageo are doing pilots with regenerative dairy farmers in supply chains – is there room to do this in a place-based way to be part of wider bioregion collective action?
- There is an essential part of this to do with connecting through direct experience and the heart

Next steps: add these reflections into next version of potential workstreams and emerging potential pilots – BWL to work on this and share with Waterford network when input from manifesto co-writing is also available.

What is our common intent?

Who are 'we'? What are our common principles?



Our bioregion vision??
A resilient food system that supports thriving landscapes, seascapes and communities in the Waterford bioregion

Waterford Bioregion Mission
To mobilise 64K changemakers by 2025 to overcome systemic barriers and restore, protect and regenerate of 64K ha of land and sea in the Waterford bioregion,, with significant impact on 4 Returns (social, natural, economic and inspiration) by 2030

We asked: What is a manifesto?

"A manifesto is not a policy document. It is something much more unruly.

Manifestos are designed to shake us up, to get us thinking, to change not just our minds but also our hearts.

They are not the summation of how far we have come. Instead, they are the starting-points for change.

They wake us from complacency. And they help usher in futures we can't yet imagine."



Will Buckingham from Wind&Bones, co-facilitator

Personal manifestos

- What I know
- What I believe
- What I want



What I know - believe - want

We live on the most wonderful place in the universe and we share it with all living things. The way in which we live is breaking our world and we need to repair it and nurture it so we will thrive nature and cherish all life. We will grow food for local communities and grow organically. We will bring food without chemicals. We will pass our rivers. We shall be good ancestors. We will nurture success through public living.

Kim + Esther

- we have an insight understanding and appreciation of our environment
- we need to learn/teach/experience rather than read/talk/lecture
- we need to do stuff on our own + together
- we need to share (teach) others in order to really learn new stuff.
- what
- appetite, opportunity to change

WHAT

- PEOPLE WITH IDEAS VISIBLE TO BE HEARD
- PEOPLE WITH TO CHALLENGE TO BE REPEATED
- A ENTHUSIASM OF PEOPLE IN COMMUNITIES TO BE HELPED WITH

Im alive, Im living, at this moment is all there is, I know I prefer the connection of talk + vocal exchange person to person is the reason to get out of bed in the morning. Its what we all need. I know I am human and I share this space with other sentient beings, I dont own it.

Believe we are all here for a purpose. Faith. Believe that weaving is not a project ~~to~~ to be tackled. I believe it is a new way of connecting with our surroundings. Connecting with everything from the rocks to the human heart. ~~to an all~~ inclusive planet. It is about our surroundings and the people and places, rocks, sea, land, plants, fauna. Necessity is the mother Nature of all invention.

Co-writing manifestos for each of the four returns



NATURE

What we know and believe

- Reduction of diversity has reduced ability to react to disease, e.g. ruminants
- Loss of biodiversity
- Our rivers and water sources are polluted
- Demand for cheap food has brought about intensification of farming
- Our food is chemically contaminate (glyphosates). An attempt to fence nature to submit. We are poisoning nature
- Industrialisation and urbanisation have moved us away from nature.
- Our soil has been damaged both physically and biologically by modern farming practices.

What we want

- Protection and enhancement of our soil health
- Educate our children and communities on the importance of our soil health for our future
- All our rivers and water bodies to be restored to pristine status
- To apply nature-based solutions
- To transition to a regenerative model with due consideration given to practicality and scale
- More awareness that there can be more productive dairy farming with out the use of chemicals

SOCIAL

What we know and believe

- Lack of trust between:
 - XXX and scientists
 - Planners (officials) and people
- Huge energy available
- Consumer/Retailer/Processors/Farmers are not singing from same song-sheet
- Create a platform for this to xxx
- Social = community
- People, mammals, plants, all living things
- Lack of trust between various groups
- Belief of trust between various groups
- DS – 1st point: acknowledge there is a problem
- Fear and lack of truth. Lack of trust.
- Trust is earned
- Understanding is necessary
- Integrity is necessary
- Food quality should not depend on.

What we want

- Experiences with people for people with nature
- Greater trust between stakeholder based on integrity and evidence
- New language to combat the trap and reductionism of labels
- Build earned trust based on understanding
- Integrity major part of healing and integration (need for safe space)
- Abandon labels that determine relationships and dynamics
- Amnesty – and a safe space
- A different form of growth
- Communication - conversation around our environment and how we treat our natural resources
- Use of language needs to change
- Acknowledge there is a problem to find a solution
- He who pays the piper
- Should be only one way to produce food – not organic, not conventional.
- Good nutrient-rich food affordable to everyone
- Farmer/consumer driving the food system

FINANCIAL

What we know and believe

- Farmers can't afford to produce
- Consumers don't know the true cost of food
- Ineffective grants
- Mass production – go big or go home

What we want

- Remove retailer stranglehold on producers
- Producer paid fair prices
- Personal and environmental wellbeing index
- Delicious seasonal food locally accessible and affordable for everyone
- Informed consumers
- Cut out food waste (700 Euros)
- Policy change to support sustainable practice
- Consumer - more direct link and seasonal

INSPIRATION

What we know and believe

- Fear XX
- Think possibilities not problems
- Inspiration comes best from people we know
- Without passion we will fail
- Stories of change are inspirational
- People are overwhelmed and need new inspiration

What we want

- To be inspired every day, pervasively in everyday conversations
- No barriers between doers and thinkers
- People with ideas to be heard
- Priority to inspire not just inform

Waterford Bioregion's Food Manifesto *(to be read out loud)*

Food is not a luxury.

Food is a basic social need to which everyone has a right. It is a right not only to enjoy food, but to be able to create it.

Food is a way of building ideas, connections and communities. Through food we become aware of ourselves and of each other.

Food is a common good. It is grounded in our common need, and our common vulnerability.

Food is revolutionary. How we grow food, how we consume it, how we think about it, can lead to radical change.

Food is not only about the present: rethinking our relationship with food is a call for a different future, a better one.

We, the local producers and consumers of food in the Waterford bioregion, assert:

We have the right to disagree, to disrupt the status quo.

We have the right to respect, even while we dissent.

Our dissent is moral, philosophical, cultural, affective, economic and political. Sometimes all at once.

Our dissent is about building a better world.

We stand for:

The breaking-down of barriers between thinkers and doers. We are, all of us, both thinkers and doers.

A reinvention of the relationships between retailers and producers, because we are the ultimate decision makers

Food that is sustainable for our health

The protection of the land.

The richness of the soil.

The flourishing of the imagination.

New ideas. New stories. New inspirations.

New ways of relating to the food we grow and eat.

We want future food to come from a place where community is core. Our aims are both idealistic and practical. We want to create new habits, and new ways of working. We want viable ways of living. We want to protect our rivers, restore nature, cherish life. We want a world where everything is connected, from rocks to the human heart.

We want our children and grandchildren to know the taste of wild salmon and the foods those before us enjoyed. We want to be good guardians of the soil, and of our traditions. We want to become good ancestors.

We want future food to be:

Grown and eaten with passion, without which we will fail.

Inspirational

Easy to get and affordable for all.

Connected to people and communities

Familiar

Surprising

Secure, in a system where farmers and consumers share an interest in this security.

Pristine

Fair

Seasonal

Delicious

Nutritious



Possible actions
 The actions below are based on the question posed in workshop closing session: "What is needed next?" combined with analysis of the leverage points and trends emerging during workshop

Our common (start)?

- Vision and rallying call – co-visioning workshop?
- Apply CBD ecosystem approach with 12 principles?
- Co-write a manifesto with key principles that people and organisations sign up to. Direct to mayors, local national and international decision makers.

Education

- Start with education - including on how to handle complexity
- Educators initiative – need action now. What would that look like? Gather sub-group of teachers and others?
- Grr garden in every school in bioregion, with empowered teachers - linked to Irish Sustainability Network?
- Community garden in every community in bioregion?

Trainers as a town ambitious for tomorrow, and the next day

- An umbrella organisation to access resources?
- Community innovates support joined up initiative like this – interested in being connected?
- Link to Participatory City model – community kitchens, gardens, social enterprise etc?
- Local restaurants (Morse and others) club together to find young grower to be their supplier?
- Short food value chain study for whole town?

+ many more



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 Food is a common good. It is grounded in our common need, and our common humanity.
 Food is revolutionary. How we grow food, how we consume it, how we think about it, can lead to radical change.
 Food is not only about the present, sustaining our relationship with food is a call for a different future, a better one.

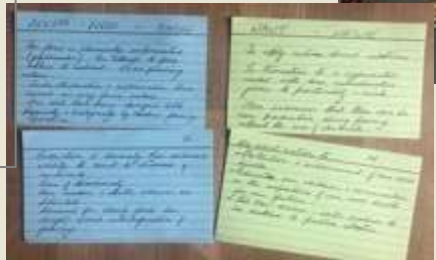
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 Our dream is about building a better world.

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 The breaking down of barriers between thinkers and doers. We walk, all of us, both thinkers and doers.
 A reconnection of the relationship between retailers and producers, because we see the wisdom in common markets.
 Food is inseparable for our health.
 The protection of the land.
 The richness of the soil.
 The flourishing of the imagination.
 New ideas, new stories, new inspirations.
 New ways of relating to the food we grow and eat.

We want future food to come from a place where communities thrive. Our lives are both vibrant and practical. We need to create new habits, and new ways of working. We want local ways of being. We want to protect our hours, restore nature, cherish life. We want a world where everything is connected, from roots to the human heart.

We want our children and grandchildren to know the taste of wild lemon and the taste of our traditions. We want to be good guardians of the soil, and of our traditions. We want to become good stewards.

We want future food to be:
 Open and eaten with berries, without which we will fail.
 Easy to get and affordable for all.
 Connected to people and communities.
 Healthy.
 Surprising.
 Secure, in a system where farmers and consumers share an interest in:
 Risk reduction.
 Profit.
 Fair.
 Resilient.
 Delicious.
 Nourishing.





Ireland:
Waterford Bioregion
4 Returns Landscape Plan



Overview and analysis

Introduction

- Irish land/sea context degradation/regeneration
- Partners and background
- How we work: The four returns and three zones. Bioregion and weaving. NBS and SI. Systems change

Description and overview of bioregion, with stakeholders and partners

- Geology and geomorphology
- Soil
- Vegetation and biodiversity
- Water
- Weather and climate
- People and culture
- Landuse
- Planning and architecture
- Education – schools and adults
- Entrepreneurship
- Farmer, food and nature organisations
- Donors, funders and partners

Landscape analysis

- Maps that resonate and can document change
 - Three zones
 - Regen land and sea
 - Regen social, financial and inspiration
- System barriers and root causes
- Holistic opportunities to transition

Planning and strategy

Returns regeneration strategic framework

- The Four Losses in the bioregion
- The Four Returns in the bioregion
- What works? Past and present
- Future scenarios – high level

Nature Based Solutions (NBS)

- Current
- Potential to upscale
- Needed NBS to be developed or imported
- Needed systems and mindset changes

Social, inspiration and economic innovations

- Current
- Potential to upscale
- Needed innovations to be developed or imported
- Needed systems and mindset changes

Structure, governance and ways of working

- Collective impact network
- Governance
- BWL
- Funding (inc. of systems change and weaving)

Funding and Roadmap

- 5 year plan
- 10 and 20 year plan
- 5 year budget Waterford bioregion
- 10 year budget Waterford and beyond

Some summary points from discussion (see recording for full discussion)

Well-being and mental health came up as core to sustainability

- We could be clearer on the importance of what we are doing for **mental and physical health**. 53% of the population in Ireland is obese, and 1 in 4 farmers suffer from mental health issues. This initiative could have real value on both counts.
- Teagasc had a webinar on mental health and well-being recently. It came up that farmers are working 3000 hours pa. This is not sustainable. Farming cannot be environmentally or socially sustainable with this as a starting point.
- People around Cheekpoint are depressed because they cannot fish any more.
- Would this be a way for framing the BWL work? **Healthy and sustainable** waters, farmers, kids, urban areas, food?

The hope for lifting what we want into the future

- Soil type is going to be key. Waterford Whiskey looking at the soils of SE Ireland and 52 different types.
- Labelling fish, and where they come from, could be a thing to work for.

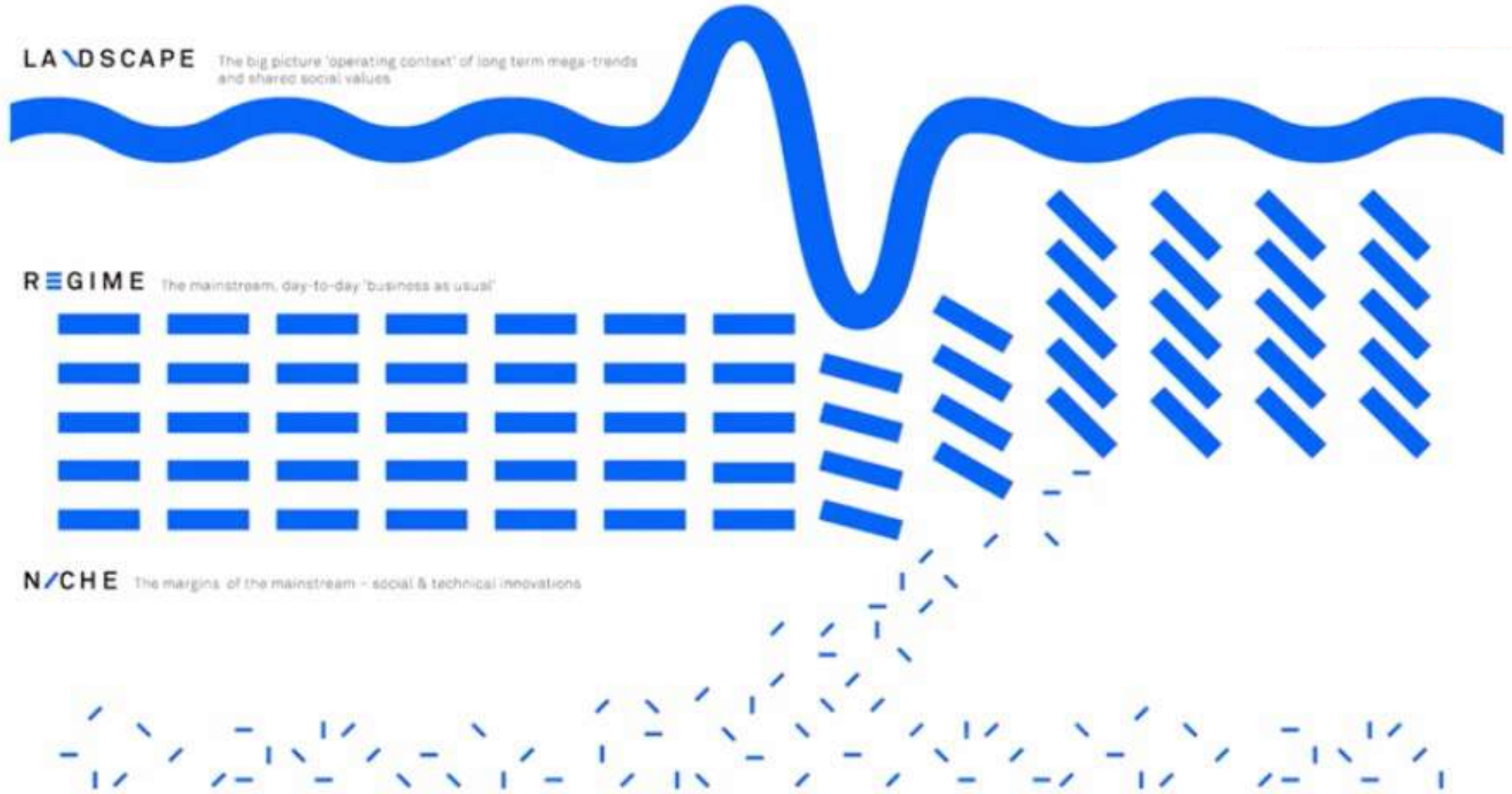
Funding

- Can we look at a five or ten year plan now? Yes we can. Commonland have committed funding for leverage. GIY are committed.
- EIP funding is coming up, could be very relevant. FLAG too.
- Interesting funding models for socio-ecological change are emerging: Look at The Nature Trust and Foodcloud (social bond).

Describing our work and our region:

- Is a good name for thematic working groups **sub-weaving groups**?
- How will sub-weaving groups emerge? For example: visualisation through maps: Sarah will talk to Waterford County Council on Monday about GIS maps. Will depend on local energy, interest and capacity.
- Should we focus more on smaller areas within the larger bioregion? For example the very start of a tributary, feeding into a tributary, feeding into another and into a river? Good to focus, but must not become fragmented – we work to join fragments. Water is also linked to land management.
- **Irish is a nature-based language** and place-names matter- let's make sure this is reflected. Is a word for our initiative perhaps 'Fás', Irish for 'grow'. Irish is a nature based language. One day maybe someone would like to translate the manifesto into Irish for us?

Change happens at different scales and altitudes



Example picture from Landscape Finance theme



A Herenboeren Farm in a nutshell

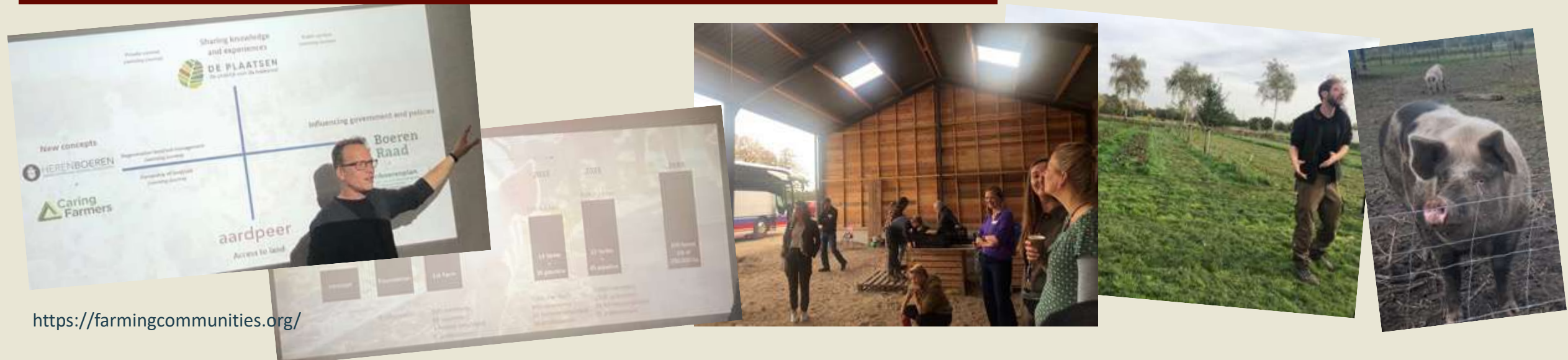
A Herenboeren Farm is a small-scale, sustainably operating cooperative mixed farm initiated and supported by a group of local residents. Together they employ a professional, passionate farmer who produces their food.

A Herenboeren Farm feeds 500 people sustainably on an area of 20 hectares and provides the farmer with a fair, stable income paid by the same 500 people.

How does it work?

200 households make a one-off investment of 2,000 euros (meaning that no outside capital is needed)

- 500 people share the operating costs of the Farm (around 10 euros per week)
- The Farm's harvest is reserved for these 500 people and provides around 60% of their food needs
- The 200 households together form a cooperative
- They are independent of subsidies
- And rent the land on a long-term lease



Three Horizons - Group 1

H1 – Business as usual: Agribusiness (is vulnerable); Teagasc (most of it); farmers media and press; Bord Bia has got stuck in own Origin Green branding; policymakers are lobbying for fertilizer. UCD working with Agribusiness; greenwashing.

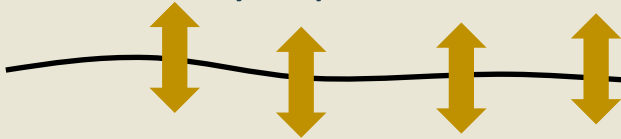
H2 – Disruptive Innovation: new organic body like in Denmark; new media with no bias against organic/regen; quality assured education for farmers; citizens journalism; new partnerships e.g. w Keepak, seed industry; campaign and data behind it, stop spreading protected urea; more research funding, EU too; give supported agency to communities to keep going; SETU as a beacon of quality education and research; compulsory biodiversity and soil science for everyone; pilot FwNature in bioregion QR codes; use the LPIS nr for maps to show where not organic/regen.

H3 – Emerging Future: Anne Valley, reed-bed systems, ICWs, O'Shea brothers at Piltown; good organisations (EPA, Water and more) and 'inside-outers' are out there – link to them; SETU are already home of quality assured education, research demonstrations and story-telling, SoMe, Ear to Ground; farming with nature.

Aspirational future from manifesto: **A richness of the soil**, giving pristine, healthy and nutritious food

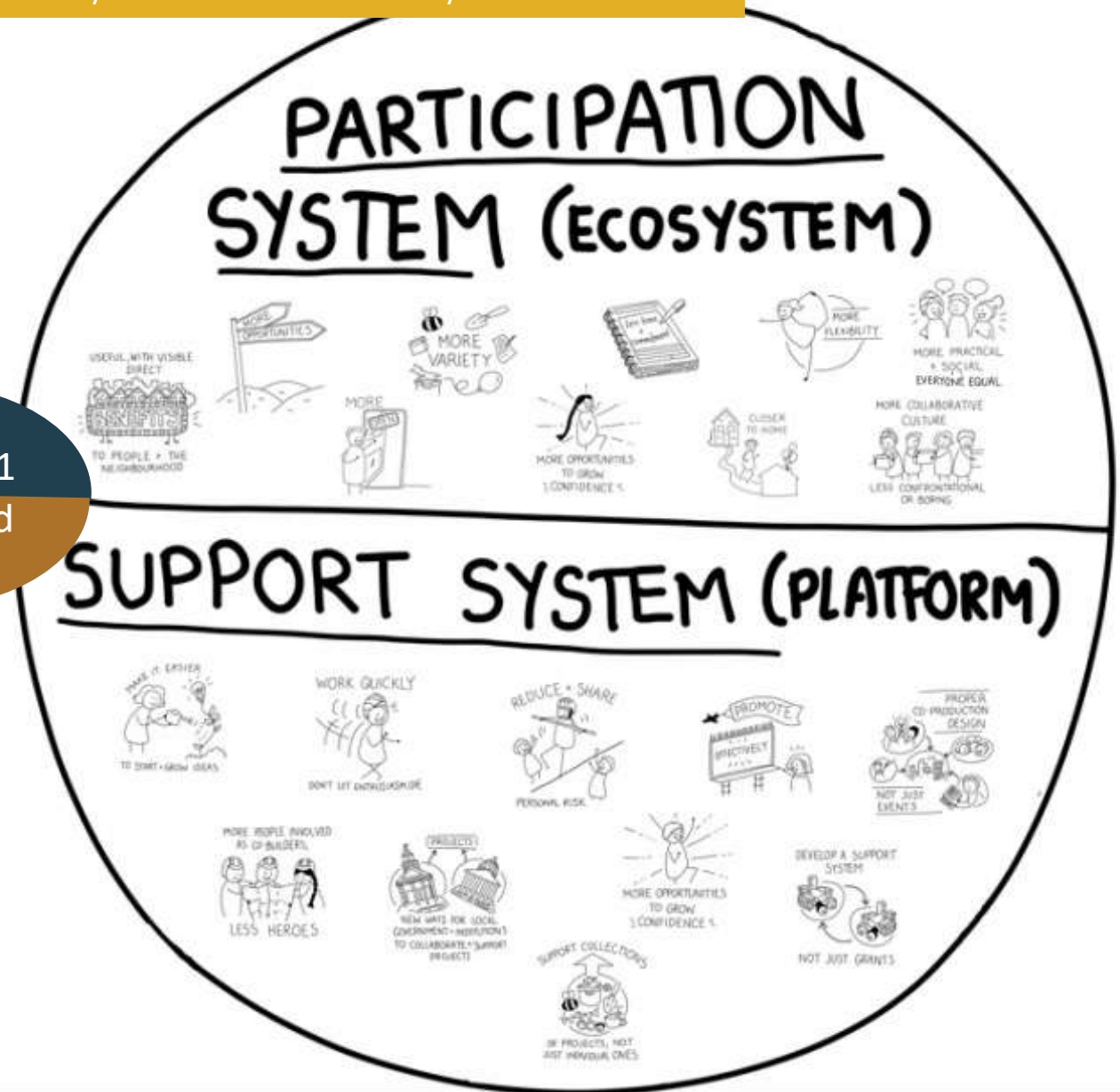


The communities and stakeholders should be well supported in their individual and collective actions and participation to build the futures we collectively aspire to.

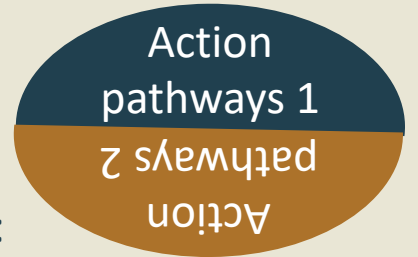


The BWL support system will aim to support by 'weaving for system change' that delivers our contribution to 1 million hectares and 1 million changemakers, guided by the Food Manifesto and within the four returns framework.

Action pathways 1
Action pathways 2



Stakeholder projects and participation



From **the outputs of the future thinking workshop** the following patterns for action could be seen:

1. Reframe **producer-consumer relationships** – neighbourhoods and townships, work to establish food partnerships and biodistricts
 2. Develop strategy to create a **new body to promote organic, regenerative and non-chemical farming** in Ireland
 3. Look for opportunity to partner with, or start new, **media channels that communicate quality assured stories** about org/regen/no-chem farming, food, and changemaking for future we aspire to.
 4. Campaign to **stop spreading protected area**
 5. Building a **proper support structure for community participation** – e.g. water-related
 6. **SETU** as a beacon of sustainable and regenerative mindsets, research, teaching and practice. Demonstrations of what works for soil, water, food and education.
 7. Short and long **skills training** (NOTS ++) for Regen farming, biodiversity and more
 8. **Farming with Nature** – can this grow to be piloted in the bioregion?
 9. **Community processing hubs and mobile units** – what would these look like and how to get them going in the bioregion?
 10. The power of **procurement** and new business forms
- Plus:
11. **Schools** - schools in community, heritage and place. Schools as places to give children opportunities to experience being changemakers

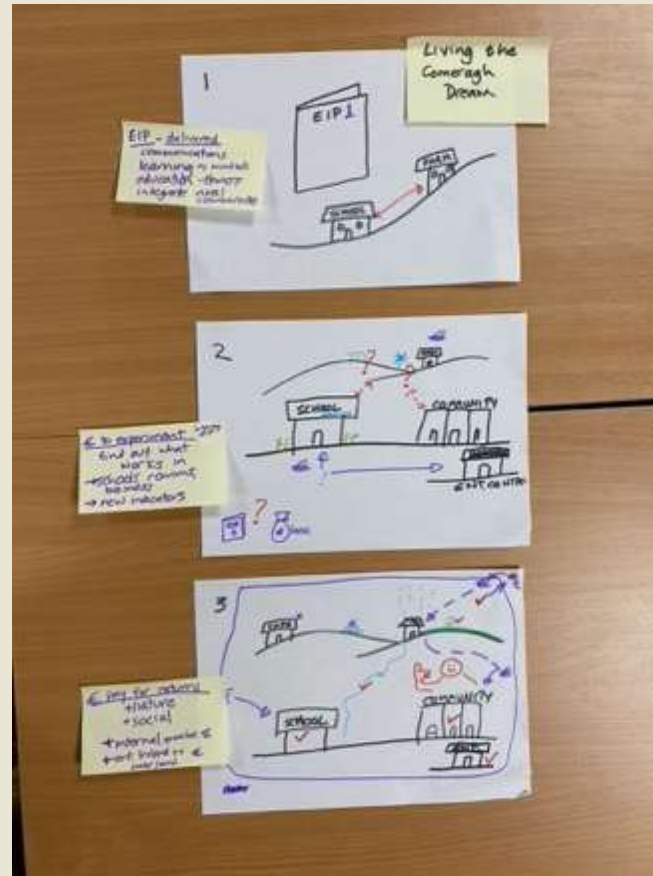
BWL support platform and documentation

From **the work of the BWL in Waterford and through the wider BWL collective** we see potential patterns of action in the following areas:

- 1. The role of BWL as facilitating collective impact network**
 - Communications – connecting, stories, website, learning.
 - Events, workshops, analysis and visits
 - Tools for systems change – identify and design systems change strategies
 - Indicators that mean we are getting there (local 4Rs) – collective impact collation.
 - Governance and decision-making processes – what will they be?
- 2. Co-weavers within other key orgs?** And inside-outers.
- 3. Strategic partnership building** for long-term collaboration
- 4. Building an financial ecosystem for transformation** by system and landscape change, for both stakeholder projects and actions, and support platform role
- 5. Landscape Plan** – writing and reporting
- 6. Portfolio** of Nature Based Solutions and System Innovations – bioregional, national and international
- 7. Map-making** – for inspiration and clarity
- 8. Weaving out of the region** – upwards to decision-makers, outwards to other BWLs and regions.



Paradise Regained Investing in whole watersheds. Anne Valley as a case with its integrated wetlands, community land management, education centre, rural enterprise hub.



Living the Comeragh Dream New socio-economic model for uplands farmers and rural communities incl. berries, wool, education and local regenerative enterprises.



Cultivating Community Community-owned regenerative farms connecting consumers to food, and giving farmers predictable assured salary. inspired by Herenboeren model

The presentations at Dunhill gave **inspirational insights into what is being done**. The main outcome of the workshop was the **realisation that there are bridges between and towards interested stakeholders in the bioregion**, and that **we could start experimenting with small pilots**.

NB: There is a small pot in the BWL budget for supporting experiments – how and who and where will be taken up in our next meetings

Replication and scaling of systemic innovations

The workshop at Dunhill showed that there are some interesting systemic innovations that can be investigated further with regard to developing and/or scaling. These include:

- **Aronia berries** on bioregional upland farms could work – let's explore more?
- **Farming with Nature** app – can it be developed to pilot on bioregional scale?
- **Cooperative owned farms** – could they work in the bioregion? Where would the first group emerge from?
- **Textiles** – what can we as a bioregion explore for systemic changes that would help build Ireland as leader in this field of regenerative textiles?
- **BWL** as additional energy and inspiration boost to other innovative partnerships? Are co-weavers in major institutions a possibility? Increasing capacity for weaving as a methodology for change could be investigated.

The question is what from this list, and, importantly, previous BWL workshops and reports, has the energy and support to be taken further?

..... which lead to: Jan – April 2023 – further conversations with individual stakeholders around concepts, leading to where we are at beginning of Dromana/Tramore concept development workshops.





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