

My Somerset Life

A diary by Brian Snellgrove

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Clutton Fayre and the 50th Anniversary of Frome Council

To the village of Clutton to enjoy the annual outdoor celebration which does not change much from year to year. There are various small sales stalls, charity stalls, local initiatives, a large tent where the most glorious selection of cakes, all homemade, were available for the princely price of two pounds of slice. I found someone who was selling carrot jam believe it or not and it was absolutely delicious and it tasted like apricots. There were dog shows and some dancing and acrobatic acts. That were a very large selection of old cars altogether very good value for money for four pounds entry fee.





To Victoria Park in Frome where there was the 50th anniversary celebration of the formation of the town council. I went mainly to see Rupert who was conducting interviews on behalf of FromeFM radio. He interviewed me and Françoise and after we came in the area and what our plans were for the day. I met one of two people who had been trained in studio techniques for those very small stations whose audience can be realistically numbered in the 500 range. There are hundreds of local radio stations around the country and for those interested here is a link to a list.
<https://jack-bromby.com/uk-community-radio-stations-list/>



This stand took the top prize for a confusing collection of imagery. I told the chap there I did not link the word design either with a surgery or with the community and I did not link the name toolbox with a neighborhood. I think these words come from different disciplines but you'll never know what going to come out.

I thought I would ask Bing what it thought so I put in the key words without comment and received the following:

It sounds like you're interested in community-led neighborhood planning and design! These initiatives often involve local residents working together to shape the future of their area. Here are a few key points about neighborhood toolbox community design surgeries:

1. **Community-Led Planning:** These plans are typically led by local organizations such as parish or town councils or neighborhood forums. They focus on the specific needs and desires of the community¹.
2. **Participatory Approaches:** Engaging the community in the planning process is crucial. This can include workshops, surveys, and public meetings to gather input and ensure that the plan reflects the community's vision².
3. **Design Tools and Activities:** Good design is a key component of neighborhood planning. Tools and activities can help assess the qualities and character of a place,

guiding the development of design policies³.

When I asked for examples, Bing said there are several successful examples of neighborhood toolbox design projects that have made a significant impact on their communities. Here are a few notable ones:

1. **The High Line, New York City:** This project transformed an old elevated railway into a public park. Community input was crucial in the design process, ensuring the space met local needs and preserved historical elements.
2. **Granby Four Streets, Liverpool:** Residents of this area came together to save their neighborhood from demolition. They used community design principles to refurbish homes and public spaces, creating a vibrant and sustainable community.
3. **Vauban, Freiburg, Germany:** This neighborhood was designed with strong community involvement, focusing on sustainability and social cohesion. It features car-free streets, energy-efficient homes, and communal green spaces.
4. **BedZED, London:** The Beddington Zero Energy Development is an eco-village in South London. It was designed with input from residents to create a sustainable community with energy-efficient homes and shared amenities.

so maybe it is me being unadventurous and narrow-minded. I guess it takes many types of mindset to make a community and this could be one that I should take more seriously.

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