**File:**  **P2\_GMT20210719-115636\_Recording**

**Duration: 1:19:56**

**Date: 29/09/2021**

**Typist: 874**

START AUDIO

[0:01:48]

Respondent: Hi, Ian, how are you?

Ian: Oh, hi Respondent. Hi.

Respondent: Alright?

Ian: Yes. Great. Nice to meet you. Could you just excuse me for one second? I just have to go and unlock my front door so people can get in.

Respondent: I've just had to do that, for my next door neighbour’s delivery. Yes.

Ian: I'll be one second.

[Break in conversation 0:02:10 – 0:02:27]

Okay. So thank you very much for agreeing to speak with me.

Respondent: It’s a pleasure, fascinating.

Ian: Yes, so obviously this is just the really early stages of something that hopefully will turn into an interesting project. And I’m sure- hopefully clear, all the information I sent you, spells out at this minute we’re just-

Respondent: You did thank you, yes. Did I reply to your disclaimer form?

Ian: You did. I just checked. Thank you. I mean, that's not a great way of doing it.

Usually, I would like to talk through things and get people to sign something, but these are the times we're in. So, yes, if you have any questions now, or you can ask at the end or throughout, just go for it. You might think of- as I ask you questions, you might think you've got questions in return and that is absolutely fine.

Respondent: As you ask me questions, you might think, “Oh goodness, she’s thick,” because I don’t know very much at all about these-

Ian: No. Well, this is the thing, this is the thing. This isn't really meant to be really technologically focused. This is what I'm trying to do is, just get people's experiences, people's lived experience. How have different people experienced what's been happening in the area and, yes, things like that.

If we're looking at either redesigning or designing something new, that's got to be rooted in the experiences of people and how people prefer to experience communication and accessing information and things like that. So this is what these interviews are about.

Respondent: Okay. That sounds good to me.

Ian: Excellent. Also, if you don't feel- there's no reason at all for you to have your camera on. I'm going to leave mine on, but-

Respondent: No, I'm fine with that. Thank you. I know I just look awful, but it doesn't matter.

Ian: You don't at all. Okay, so I'll just go ahead and start asking if that's okay?

Respondent: Hmm.

Ian: Great. So first thing I wanted to ask is how long have you lived or worked in the [REDACTED ORG] area?

Respondent: Just coming up to five years.

Ian: And is that living or working or both?

Respondent: Living, I moved here when I retired from Leeds in West Yorkshire.

Ian: Oh, wow. Okay. So which of the villages do you live in?

Respondent: [REDACTED PLACE NAME].

Ian: Great. So what do you think are the main differences between the four villages?

Respondent: They are all very different. [REDACTED PLACE NAME] retains an awful lot of its mining heritage.

In fact, you could say there are three separate communities in [REDACTED PLACE NAME]. I know I've said this before, and I'm absolutely convinced of it, there's the mining village and the miner’s [rows 0:05:26], which is where the relatives of former miners live. Quite a lot of the- When [REDACTED PLACE NAME] [conduit 0:05:34] closed in the 1960s, it might've been ‘70s, quite a lot of the miners got new jobs in the \_\_\_ factory.

The aluminium smelter over at [REDACTED PLACE NAME], which has now gone and that left a lot of voids in the village. And these voids were filled by a huge extended traveller family. So that's two of the communities. And the third community is a XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX, a housing developer, bought up parts of the former mine yards and rail tracks and shunting yards and tacked two new housing estates onto the edge of [REDACTED PLACE NAME].

And that's the third community. By and large, the three communities don't talk to each other very much. (Laughter)

Ian: That’s a common story about a lot of places, isn’t it?

Respondent: Yes, yes, yes. And there's a lot of small village politics around as I'm sure, which is common to a lot of other small villages. But that's really [REDACTED PLACE NAME] in a nutshell, I don't know so much about [REDACTED PLACE NAME] and [REDACTED PLACE NAME]. [REDACTED PLACE NAME], in my view, if I could put it so bluntly seems to be basically posh.

Because there's a lot of high-end housing in [REDACTED PLACE]. But [REDACTED PLACE NAME] and [REDACTED PLACE NAME] are both fine, former mining communities. [REDACTED PLACE] is too, but it’s not in evidence. But [REDACTED PLACE NAME] and [REDACTED PLACE NAME] are both former mining communities.

[REDACTED PLACE NAME] is the one with the most problems in terms of housing, poor pay, unemployment and not very much in the way of new developments, but [REDACTED PLACE NAME] does have the benefit of new developments, which are coming on some, all the time.

Active building sites there, where more housing schemes are going in. So I think [REDACTED PLACE NAME] is looking up, but [REDACTED PLACE NAME] isn’t.

Ian: Interesting. Great.

Respondent: That’s just my impression and my views. I haven't really lived here long enough and I certainly haven't experienced the other three communities enough to give you a really definitive description.

Ian: Yes, this isn't necessarily a big part of my questioning. It's just really interesting because I've worked in the area for a long time or with people from the area And it's just interesting to hear people's different perspectives about the idea of [REDACTED ORG] as one thing and, you know, as you'll know, from working in the partnership.

Respondent: Yes.

Ian: Okay. So the other side of that, what do you think if anything, the four villages have in common?

Respondent: Well, I think [REDACTED ORG], actually, and before [REDACTED ORG] came along, not very much, I would think. I don't know.

I wasn't in at the beginning of the scheme, so I don't know who put together the bid for the [REDACTED ORG] lottery funding. But someone sought to link the four. There is an impression around [REDACTED PLACE NAME] because we're so small, we were really only added to make up numbers for head of population to make the bid buyable, because [REDACTED PLACE NAME] is tiny, there's 150 houses in the former mining village.

I imagine, say, another 130 houses in the new part of the village. And that's it. In [REDACTED PLACE NAME], there's no pub, there's one Post Office, which is a very, very small community shop and there’s a village hall and nothing else. And I don't know if it's true that it was an afterthought to make up numbers, but I have heard that said a couple of times.

Ian: Yes that’s certainly the feeling people have.

Respondent: Yes. [REDACTED PLACE NAME] and [REDACTED PLACE NAME] do have a longstanding connection in that there’s a footpath that connects [REDACTED PLACE NAME] with [REDACTED PLACE NAME], which has long gone into disrepair. And [REDACTED ORG], with the county council has just entered into an agreement to pay for upgrading the old footpath so that it's passable once again, there's a foot bridge over the [REDACTED PLACE NAME] Byrne which is really difficult to negotiate.

But by the end of this year, we should have a new footpath or at least a reinstated old footpath linking [REDACTED PLACE NAME] and [REDACTED PLACE NAME].

Ian: Do you think that physical footpath is as important to-

Respondent: I do. It's historically important because people that you come across all say, “Oh, we used to be able to walk to [REDACTED PLACE NAME] from [REDACTED PLACE NAME].” And in fact, the only pub now that is accessible from [REDACTED PLACE NAME] without getting into a car, is The Plough in [REDACTED PLACE NAME]. And you know, if you want to have a pint in the evening and walk back safely, then it’s The Plough or nothing, if you live in [REDACTED PLACE NAME].

Ian: So it's not just about… It's actually a way for the villages to share resources, something as simple as a footpath.

Respondent: Yes. And in the past, the village halls were really strong institutions or institutes as they call them. With lots of things going on in the evening, like mechanics institutes, and evening classes and football clubs and that kind of thing, all that's been lost in [REDACTED PLACE NAME] except for the bowls.

But, again, in [REDACTED PLACE NAME] and [REDACTED PLACE NAME], the boys football teams have come back up again with [REDACTED ORG]s funding and help from other sources of funding, of course, not just [REDACTED ORG]. So that's been, sort of, reinstated and revitalised. And I hope that [REDACTED PLACE NAME] will be able to get it on the back of that, but not much evidence of that just yet.

Ian: Okay. Moving on to, sort of, you then away from the area. How would you describe your role in the [REDACTED ORG] area?

Respondent: Well, I've been a partner member of the [REDACTED ORG] for about two and a half, coming up to three years. And about three, four months ago we had a, kind of, rearrangement of the leadership of [REDACTED ORG] and I’m now the and the vice chair is also a [REDACTED PLACE NAME] resident, by pure fluke. This has not been a takeover bid by [REDACTED PLACE NAME], to any extent, so yes, since I've become the chair, I’ve been very hands-on, I have to say, I'd like to say, and involved and want to continue to do that until we go out of business in January next year.

Ian: So, yes, I know you said that in almost like a light-hearted way, but do you think the way we talk about representation and any, sort of, governance, do you think having people from [REDACTED PLACE NAME] represented on the partnership is important?

Respondent: Yes. Very. Yes, yes. For example, just going back to small village politics, the two [REDACTED PLACE NAME] representatives on the [REDACTED PLACE NAME] and [REDACTED PLACE NAME] Parish Council have both resigned recently.

And on that parish council, [REDACTED PLACE NAME] has no representation at the moment. And I don't know if anybody else is going to apply to take their places.

Ian: Hmmhmm. So do you think that's tied in with these ideas that you've heard people talking about of [REDACTED PLACE NAME] being an afterthought and things? Do you think-

Respondent: No, I don't think that's connected at all. I mean to put it too bluntly, and don't write down this and don’t record it, people in [REDACTED PLACE NAME] fallout in lumps and once they've fallen out, they stay fallen out and they just walk away, which is the experience that I've noted. (Laughter)

Sorry to be so blunt but that’s the way it is.

Ian: No, no, it's great. It’s the only way to talk about things, I think.

The way you participated as being, you know, a part of this- the partnership, does that cover all of the ways that you, kind of, participate in community things? Like, what does that look like in terms of a role?

Respondent: As a role, I think it's a very good one and a very rewarding one. And I hope it's a productive one as well. The other members of the partnership bring a lot of different talents to it and different strands and different experiences. And I think that's part of its value, really, because people come from all sorts of backgrounds; still working, some retired, some people connected with the church.

And there’s this fantastic organisation in [REDACTED PLACE NAME] called [Backman’s 0:15:10] which I'm sure you've heard of or will come across if you haven't. And they've done some fantastic work, especially during the pandemic. You know, in making sure that people who are isolated or without services or indeed resources because of the pandemic, have been looked after and I totally, totally take my hat off to Backman’s for the candid work they've done.

And they have been very, very inclusive in the way they've gone about the work.

Ian: Yes. And has the way… Actually, before I talk about that stuff, I'll just move on to something else. Do you consider where you live to be rural?

Respondent: Yes.

Ian: Yes.

Respondent: Yes, I do.

Ian: Great. So what is it that makes where you live rural? What is it about it that makes you say, like, this is a rural place?

Respondent: Because it's in the middle of nowhere. If you look at it on the ordinance survey map, it is really quite isolated. Three buses a day, none on a Sunday. And it is surrounded by farmer's fields. There's a nature reserve across the road. And in spite of its mining and industrial past, it feels rural.

I mean, if I look out the window now, I can see house martins and I can hear sky larks, it just has a rural feeling about, which is partly why I came to live here.

Ian: Yes. Excellent. So where you lived before, before you moved here, wasn't rural. You said Leeds, didn’t you? So that's, kind of, a city.

Respondent: It’s a huge city. I mean, I worked for the second biggest metropolitan authority in the country and it's just massive. And when I went for my Sunday morning walks in the countryside, I’d get in my car and I would drive for 40 minutes before I got outside the ring road. Leeds is that big and it’s a fantastic city. Great shopping, great arts, great theatre, great culture, a very vibrant economy.

But when I retired, I just said to myself, “Okay, gal, you've lived in a big city for all your life. It's time you did something different.” And I came here.

Ian: Some of these might seem hard to answer, so if you-

Respondent: That’s okay. I’ll struggle and do my best.

Ian: Yes. Okay. So what I was going to say is, based on what you just said, what does being rural- what does living in a rural area mean to you?

Respondent: Well it means a lot because I do like nature conservation and it means because I'm near the coast, in a former life, I was an archaeologist and so I have access to all these wonderful archaeological sites up the coast. My special subject was in Anglo-Saxon archaeology. And so I have all the heritage on my doorstep; seventh and eighth century saints and all that, kind of, heritage that goes with it.

So that’s what appeals to me. And that's what appealed to me- which is what drew me here.

Ian: Excellent, brilliant.

Respondent: That and cheap property.

Ian: Yes.

Respondent: Yes. (Laughter)

Ian: So does being in a rural area, compared to your other experiences, affect your life in any, sort of, way?

Respondent: It makes me think about the future because I've had a lot of illness in my life this past couple of years.

And it does make me think that if I were ever to lose the use of my car, I'd be stuck. So I have realised that probably this isn't my last move and I maybe need to move back into a community to receive services in older age. I sincerely hope I won’t, because I do like it here. I like the neighbours and I like the people that I do know.

But that's just caused me some thoughts over the past couple of years.

Ian: Yes. Thank you for answering that so honestly.

Respondent: That’s okay.

Ian: I mean, these questions, really what I thought was, it's interesting just how some people can live in the same area and say it's rural, it's not rural. And the reasons why it's rural for some people… some people talk really about things like, “Oh, it's,”- When you mentioned the house martins outside and stuff and you get this, “Oh, that's a postcard, that's idyllic.”

But also rural means certain barriers.

Respondent: Absolutely, yes.

Ian: And it's just really interesting. Thank you.

Respondent: The other thing that makes it feel rural is very much based in the older housing and that is the traveller community. They all have horses. And every five minutes you can hear a horse going past the front window. And you know, the horses are all parked in the adjoining fields.

And there's a bus turning circle just across the road here, which, on a Sunday morning, it becomes an informal horse fair and people roll up with their horse boxes, sell the horses to each other, and wads of money come out to the back pockets and they’re exchanged and it's really, really entertaining.

Ian: Yes.

If you look out your window or stand at the bottom with your garden and see that, you can't help but think, you know, you would never see that in a built-up urban area.

Respondent: Yes.

Ian: So it's the kind of, the sounds and the sights, it's nature and animals-

Respondent: It is, but having said that, the pit complex is still there. It's now used as a plant hire company which hires out large, big plants, you know, Caterpillar [drops 0:21:12] and all that, kind of, thing. It's not particularly possible or popular around the village because it creates a lot of noise and dust. And they're having various planning applications into expanding, which has been the source of massive, massive objection from within the village and the planning applications have failed.

And I hear that the site is now being sold, hopefully, for more housing and the business of the plant hire firm will be moved to the site of the former [ \_\_\_ 0:21:42] factory, over at [REDACTED PLACE NAME].

Ian: Well, yes. Yes. I mean, it's tricky, isn't it, with these kinds of developers who buy stuff and then they've got their own ambitions.

Respondent: Yes, yes, yes. But I mean, I think more housing in the village will be no bad thing. [REDACTED PLACE NAME]’s actually too small for its own good. But as long as more housing were to come with the infrastructure for the school, for the tiny school, with only 24 pupils, no idea how it's viable but presumably they daren’t close it because it's got such a high proportion of traveller children attending the school but it needs the infrastructure, like the doctor surgery, you know, sort of, school infrastructure, like the chemist and a social hub. We should be the village hall, but it isn't for all sorts of historical reasons.

I hope I'm not giving you too much of a [REDACTED PLACE NAME] bias here, but this is the bit that I know most about.

Ian: No, no, not at all. Well, that's the whole point. Like, I want to speak to people from different villages and then I can piece things together. Well, yes, we can piece things together.

So I want to talk a bit about the impact of the pandemic now. So has your- Your, kind of, role as in [REDACTED ORG], so your, kind of, civic activity and the community stuff you’ve done, how has that changed because of the pandemic?

Respondent: In [REDACTED PLACE NAME], not a heck of a lot, because Backman’s in [REDACTED PLACE NAME] reached out to [REDACTED PLACE NAME]. I don’t know how to put this. I mean, there were little pockets of community self-help in various streets of [REDACTED PLACE NAME] and in the various estates of [REDACTED PLACE NAME] but it wasn't coordinated. These were just done as one-off projects where groups of neighbours got together to, sort of, look after each other, but there wasn't anything coordinated in [REDACTED PLACE NAME].

Ian: Hmmhmm. What about just the day-to-day, kind of, meetings and stuff you have with [REDACTED ORG]? Did they, sort of, move to online or did they just get paused?

Respondent: Yes. We moved to Zoom as we are today. Yes. And we haven't met in person since March the year before last.

Ian: So, yes, Zoom, have you used- is there any other, kind of, technology that’s something-

Respondent: Well, emailing individuals obviously. But Zoom have been the only media that we’ve used. I don’t know if you’ve come across it, but there is a Facebook thing. I'm not up on technology and platforms and things like that, but it's called the [REDACTED PLACE NAME] and [REDACTED PLACE NAME] Community Forum which anybody can access whether you're on Facebook or not. And that is obviously quite a hub that you might want to explore or at least look at.

Ian: Yes.

Respondent: Are you familiar with it or have you come across it?

Ian: Yes. I sat with [ANON PERSON]. We, kind of, tried to get a list of all of the localised Facebook groups. And those run by, for example, the church and Backman’s, and I think the people that are admins of these Facebook groups are people that I definitely would like to speak to actually.

Respondent: Yes.

Ian: Some of them obviously have been set up for a very specific purpose.

Others have been open a longer time and maybe have started being used differently. So that- which is the group you mentioned there in particular?

Respondent: [REDACTED PLACE NAME] and [REDACTED PLACE NAME] Community Hub.

Ian: Yes.

Respondent: If you put that into Google, it comes straight up. I have to say I'm not on Facebook myself. And I do resist going on to Facebook because of privacy issues that concern me.

But that is completely open and it’s very open about who set it up and who maintains it and who can contribute to it. And it seems to be open to anybody who clicks on the Google link.

Ian: Okay. So this is a Facebook group. I don't have a Facebook account either, but you don't have a Facebook account, but you can still get information from that group?

Respondent: Yes- I've never tried posting anything on it but it's very, sort of, grassroots community stuff like people saying ‘I found a stray dog’ or ‘My son's left his bike somewhere and we don't know where it is’ or ‘There's a quiz night on at the such and such’, or ‘There's a popup cafe coming into [REDACTED PLACE NAME]’ or whatever.

You know, it really is quite grassroots and very, very informative at a local level.

Ian: Good. So you've talked about the main function of that group, which- how would you, kind of, describe it? So you told me the, kind of, things that typically might be on that group.

Respondent: On the community hub you mean?

Ian: Yes. So is this more organisations, kind of, saying ‘We've got an event happening, we've got this happening?’ You said it was grassroots.

Respondent: It is. It's the day centre cafe says, might say, ‘We're having a Mexican night on so-and-so, it's a pop up café, come along if you want’ and there’s all sorts and it's individuals.

Somebody's having some doors changed in their house and wanting to sell the old doors. I mean, really, you know, down to earth stuff really.

Ian: So, what do you use the group for?

Respondent: I just look at it, I’m nosey.

Ian: Yes.

Respondent: Yes. Just to keep in touch. Yes.

Ian: To keep in touch about what's going on?

Respondent: Going on in the area, that’s right. Yes.

Ian: So you mentioned not having a Facebook account because of privacy and then you mentioned that this group is pretty open.

Respondent: Yes.

Ian: So-

Respondent: A few weeks ago, having spoken to [ANON PERSON] about this, sort of, communication issue I thought, “Okay, well let's grasp the nettle. I'll join Facebook.” And so I started putting my details in, and then within just a few minutes, a whole load of names popped up of people that I used to know in my professional career years ago, some of them are neighbours, some are people I've never even heard of.

And I'm invited to click on links saying ‘do you want this person to be a Facebook friend?’ And I thought, “No, no, no,” scared me off completely. And just shut everything down. (Laughter) That's as far as I got.

Ian: And so do you feel- because there are various other groups as well, Facebook groups, that maybe aren't as open as the [REDACTED PLACE NAME] and [REDACTED PLACE NAME] Community Hub-

Respondent: Oh, maybe, I just haven't heard about them.

Ian: So do you feel that you, kind of, miss things that only would happen on Facebook?

Respondent: Yes, I think I probably do. Yes. Yes. I mean, I would like to use a notice board without it necessarily being able to see me. Does that make any sense?

Ian: Yes, it does. Yes. So you mention a notice board, so for you, I don't want to, kind of, put words into mouth, but… Let's just go more generally about this Facebook group. So what do you think would make a good- if you didn't have to log in and it wasn't Facebook, what would make a good Facebook page? A Facebook group?

Respondent: Well the only one I know is the [REDACTED PLACE NAME] and [REDACTED PLACE NAME] one and I think that's great. I wouldn't know how to design one from scratch, for example.

Ian: Yes. Yes. So what sort of information is valuable then? Let's say on these, sort of, notice boards, as you described them, what sort of information do you think is worthwhile and is good for people to share in a public place?

Respondent: I think it's information that can be of service or use to the community as a whole, or to be taken up by individuals.

For example, you know, somebody who's lost their dog, somebody else might've seen it roaming around the streets at so-and-so and might be able to make a connection there. And it's as local as that, but it could be broadened out to more. I hesitate to use the word ‘corporate’ things but, you know, to be used by [REDACTED ORG] or to be used by the parish council or that kind of thing. I mean, the parish council doesn't have a Facebook page of its own.

And the only way you can get information about the parish council is to go through the rather cumbersome process of logging on to the North Yorkshire County Council website, and looking at parish councils, and then clicking on to minutes and agendas and that kind of thing. It's all really rather formal. The informality of this Facebook page I think is really good.

Ian: So do you think, for example, the parish council group you mentioned, do you think that should make an effort to put information on something like a Facebook page?

Respondent: Well, yes. Or at least including links. I mean, you know, IF you can click on something that will take you directly to the parish council’s last meeting to tell us what they talked about, and I think that would be really interesting and really useful because after all we pay them quite a lot of money and they have quite a lot of power over what happens in the village in terms of infrastructure, and just running the village; emptying the bins, and getting the drains sorted out and that, kind of, thing.

Ian: If you are looking the Facebook page and you find something that's, kind of, useful or interesting, what would you do with that? So if… Yes, are there any times when you're looking at the Facebook group and you see something or hear about something happening and it makes you think, “Oh, I'm going to do something with that information,” or do you see yourself purely as a, kind of, passive viewer?

Respondent: So far, I'm just a passive viewer and an observer. And I wouldn't know how to get involved in, sort of, saying, ‘Oh, yes, I'd like to help with that, please, me, me.’ I wouldn't know how to use the link to do that, but that's a criticism of me, not of the Facebook page.

Ian: Yes. So you've never- for example, have you… you've never, kind of, interacted with the post because you've not been a Facebook user? That's fine. But, you know, have you ever maybe told other people about something that's happening that they might- because they may not have seen it on Facebook?

Respondent: Yes, I have.

Ian: Or shared things in that way or get involved in that way? Yes. Could you talk about that?

Respondent: I do it verbally, but I wouldn't do it electronically.

Ian: Yes. So what would be an example of that? If you saw something on Facebook, what, sort of, thing might you think, “Oh, I'll tell somebody else about that, who might not know,”?

Respondent: I can’t think of an example off-hand.

Ian: Is it likely to be things, like, somebody’s selling the doors, like you said, or is it more likely to be, there's a pop-up food place coming, or is it more likely to be-

Respondent: Yes, yes, I would. I mean, for example, there was an interesting one a couple of weeks ago, somebody that I happened to know just across the road in Orchard View was looking for a foster mare for a foal that had been born.

And for some reason its mother couldn't look after it. I said, “Well, that’s quite entertaining.”. And so I separately sent her an email saying, ‘Hi, [PERSON], can I help? Don't know any foster mares but can I help at all?’

And so I did it around the back rather than using the Facebook page to reply to directly.

Ian: Okay. That’s the, sort of, stuff I was trying to get at, actually.

And what about, are there any, kind of, other ways, apart from somebody is asking for help, I may be able to help, so I'm going to email them and that's, kind of- so you find out the information from Facebook, but then you communicate in a different platform?

Respondent: Yes, yes.

Ian: Are there any other examples of when you can remember doing something like that? Even if it's not been an email, even if it's been verbal, like you said?

Respondent: Not really. No, afraid not.

Ian: No, that's fine. So you said this Facebook page is potentially a useful thing for the [REDACTED PLACE NAME] and [REDACTED PLACE NAME].

Respondent: I think it is, I think definitely.

Ian: What do you think are the most important, not just online, online and offline, places or spaces for your village?

Respondent: Well, there is a village hall- sorry, a parish council notice board on the green, just opposite here. But when the two representatives of [REDACTED PLACE NAME] resigned that hasn't been updated. So the stuff in the notice board is months out of date now.

Of course, there is the village hall which I could take up hours of your time describing because it's a hugely missed resource which has been incredibly busy thriving and vibrant in the past. As I say, it housed the library, it houses- in the fifties and sixties, it housed a doctor’s surgery and it housed a mechanics institute and there were all sorts of literary evenings and parties.

It had a cinema and it hosted all sorts of weddings and 21st birthday parties and no doubt funerals, but it's really fallen into abeyance and all it does now is it hosts the bowling club; it has a gorgeous bowling green round the back, which is really quite picturesque and very well kept up by a very, very enthusiastic group, but there's no enthusiasm at all for promoting or marketing the hall as a venue or anything else.

It has huge potential but there’s just not been any vibrancy in the committee. Don't quote me on this because I’d get a brick through my window, but there hasn't been the vibrancy in the committee to take that part of the hall forward. And it's a massive, missed opportunity.

Ian: So it's interesting. So I asked you what the most important places were, and you mentioned a notice board, which hasn't been kept up to date and a building, which is not being used to its potential.

Respondent: No, no.

Ian: Are there any other places or spaces online, offline?

Respondent: There was a pub, but that closed at the beginning of the pandemic.

And there doesn't seem to be much movement towards reopening it. And there's the Post Office and that’s neither online nor offline, but it is the hub of the [REDACTED PLACE NAME] Jungle Drums. And word of mouth information is passed, accurate or not, is passed from the Post Office as a hub.

Ian: Okay.

Respondent: I'm trying to answer as delicately as I can, but I think I’ve probably failed. (Laughter)

Ian: No, no, that's, that's really interesting. So I think… Well, you touched on a couple of things there that I think are important, things that I've been trying to, kind of, think about. One of them is about, kind of, trustworthiness of information, which I'll just park for now.

But just to go back to these spaces. So you mentioned a notice board, a village hall, a pub, a Post Office, a Facebook group.

Respondent: A former pub.

Ian: Yes, a closed pub.

Respondent: The building is still there, but it's not in use.

Ian: So what is it about these particular spaces and places and buildings and boards that make them important to the community?

Respondent: It’s all there is. Apart from little local chains of networks between neighbours and people throughout the village. But apart from that, they know there isn’t a [REDACTED PLACE NAME]- there's an organised- yes, there is. There's a Facebook page called [REDACTED PLACE NAME] Past and Present which was set up by an organisation that set itself up to promote funding for a new playground, the village play park and also a miner's memorial because there isn't a miner memorial in [REDACTED PLACE NAME].

It’s achieved its objectives. Both of those, they're not on site yet, but they will be by the end of the summer. And the [REDACTED PLACE NAME] Past and Present, I think it's called, hasn’t been kept up to date since then.

So it was stopped when this group was full of vigour and full of enthusiasm and it was really quite lively at first, but it's gone moribund really.

Ian: So they’ve got this momentum around these couple of issues, which were, I guess, two bits of funding essentially?

Respondent: Yes, a separate piece of funding, yes. Some of it just [REDACTED ORG] funding, quite a lot of it was [REDACTED ORG] funding, but also an awful lot of which was reappraised from other sources too.

Ian: So this group have, kind of, assembled around getting a memorial put in place and doing- sorry, I've forgotten the other thing.

Respondent: The play park.

Ian: A play park.

Respondent: Yes, a children’s playground.

Ian: And now that funding for these things has been achieved, they've, kind of, drifted away?

Respondent: I think they have, I don't think they're meeting very often anymore. And I think they've, sort of, said “Phew, done it.” And maybe are moving on now as individuals.

Ian: Do you think that’s a shame because do you think- Everybody on the Facebook group, I guess, people met in person or had Zoom meetings, do you think that group was having any other kind of purpose beyond, “Let's get together and think of ways to attract funding?” Do you think that was serving any other purposes for people?

Respondent: I think so. I think it was set up as two single purpose projects. I’m not part of it, but I think now they see the project as more or less drawing to a close, they'll set themselves up to have a knees-up when the opening of these two projects are completed. But I think it probably sees its job as being done.

The other is hub is, of course, the school which has got a very dedicated and very talented headteacher, but it's tiny. And it lacks resources. I think it has one teaching assistant and an admin worker. the head teacher does all the teaching .It is a primary school. As I said, I think 20, 24, maybe 25 pupils.

And because such a high number of the pupils are from traveller families, I think politically – with a capital ‘P’ – it would not be looked upon very well if it was closed and merged with another school locally.

Ian: Yes. And it's really interesting because if you, kind of, if you focus on any one small village, anywhere in the country or whatever, I guess you see all these kinds of layers of politics and rivalries and-

Respondent: Yes.

Ian: Yes, it's only living there, I guess, when they reveal themselves.

Respondent: Absolutely, and I've never lived in a village before, so all this is terribly new to me and absolutely fascinating. I'm convinced [there’s a PhD in [REDACTED PLACE NAME] 0:43:46] if someone put their mind to it.

Ian: Yes, just in the place. Yes. Well, I'm definitely not doing another one of those.

Respondent: No, okay. I’ll let you off. (Laughter)

Ian: I’m just getting over the one.

Respondent: Well done. Congratulations.

Ian: Thank you. Without dwelling on the exact place, you talked about people passing information, but you mentioned the, kind of, trustworthiness of information. So based on these notice boards, online, offline places, what, kind of, information do you find more- Is there any information that's more trustworthy than others?

Respondent: You can't switch the recording off for five minutes, could you?

Ian: I can make a note to definitely not quote anything from this totally, yes.

Respondent: Okay, fine.

Ian: So, 13, 41. Yes.

Respondent: Yes, yes. The village shop and the village hall committee, and to an extent, the group that did the mining memorial and the play park is dominated by one large, very powerful, forcefully female family.

And the gossip is just huge. And that is something that you really need to take with a large pinch of salt sometimes because the gossip flies out of control, it gets exaggerated. You know, and it's a, kind of, “[ \_\_\_ 0:45:31] we're going to a dance,” mentality, which makes it really difficult to put any credence on the, kind of, information – or you might call it gossip – that comes out of the shop.

You can turn the recording on again now. (Laughter)

Ian: Yes, I can go again. That’s just, like, a minute there, that’s fine. So let's speak more generally, now, then. So if there are actors within the community that are unreliable sources of information, let's say, what ways might that information travel around? Is that just people talking outside the shop or is this stuff going to be happening on Facebook as well? Or is this stuff going to be…

Respondent: I don't know what private individuals put on their Facebook accounts.

Ian: No, I meant in the community pages.

Respondent: No, I haven't seen that, sort of, stuff on the community pages.

Ian: Okay. So that, kind of, potentially untrustworthy information is usually word of mouth?

Respondent: Yes.

Ian: Potentially what one might characterise as just gossip but that is a- would you say, is that a, kind of, dominant way information moves around the village?

Respondent: I think it possibly is. I think it possibly is.

Ian: So, if we were to think about any of these places you mentioned, so the shops, the notice boards or the Facebook groups, what, kind of, information do you think is most useful and most appropriate? Like, what would you like to see more of?

Respondent: Well, really, I mean, aside from the spoken word, the only opportunity the shop affords is if you were having a cake morning or a Christmas fair they will put a poster in their window for you.

That's really the amount of communication that would come directly out of the shop. The notice board was only put up at the beginning of the summer. And isn't really… I mean, it's just outside this window here and I didn't see many people stopping to read it anymore. But I do think that the vibrant one is the [REDACTED PLACE NAME] and [REDACTED PLACE NAME] Community Forum.

I think that would be a really good place to start and to expand or to emulate or to bring it into another project that might be set up beside it.

Ian: Yes. So, I guess, an important part is, you said ‘vibrant’, like, do you mean active, kept up to date?

Respondent: Yes. I mean, every morning when you look at it, which I have been doing over the past few weeks, every morning, there's something new on there.

At quite a small level sometimes, you know, people saying, ‘Can you recommend a good electrician?’ or that, kind of, thing. You know, nothing of earth-shattering announcements. But I think it's a really good start, the kind of thing a community or communities could use.

Ian: So what, kind of, information, or- I know I keep using the word ‘information’, but you know, what, kind of, stuff do you think is the opposite of that? What is less appropriate or less useful that you would want to see less of or none of?

Respondent: I wouldn't want to see anything less of it or none of it. For as long as I've been looking at it, I've seen nothing objectionable in there.

There hasn't been any attacking of individuals or groups that I've seen. But I think we could see an awful lot more of what's going on at the day centre, in [REDACTED PLACE NAME], what's going on at Backman’s, what's going on with the pub, what's going on, you know, posting the parish council information there. A lot more of the – ‘formal stuff’ would be the wrong word – but the more community as opposed to individual stuff, going on there.

Ian: Yes, absolutely. So you find the information useful if, from these kinds of groups that are doing things and events and activities-

Respondent: I find it interesting. I've never actually used any of the information that's there, but it is interesting and it's good to know what's happening, you know, and who's doing it out there. And I suspect it comes down to a handful of people were contributing regularly.

Ian: Is it, you think that these groups are doing things and just not, kind of, doing public announcements of it or is it that some people just aren't seeing it-

Respondent: Yes. Or perhaps they just don't know about it and haven't thought about using it for themselves. So maybe there's a public information campaign to be done there to say this facility is there, it's free, it's public and when the pub is having a quiz night or Valentine's night, or ‘you can book now for Christmas lunches’, I mean, I know that that's part of their marketing and they have got their own Facebook. But, you know, I think that, sort of, entry would be a good start in drawing the communities together.

Ian: Yes. So which organisation were you talking about there? When you said they have-

Respondent: The [REDACTED PLACE NAME] and [REDACTED PLACE NAME] Community Hub, and if you look at it, it’s very upfront about who's organised it, who started it off and who's controlling it. I can’t remember his name but it is there on the front page.

Ian: Yes. So they're likely to put stuff out themselves, like, ‘we're doing a Chri- you can book now for Christmas lunch’, et cetera.

Respondent: Well I think they'd have to be given the information. This is where it starts using human resources, doesn’t it? Somebody would have to be around to run this and coordinate it. I mean, sort of, the pub would have to send their information, for example, for their quiz night to whoever's running the community hub and put it on.

Because I mean, the pub is a business and, you know, sort of, I know it's got its marketing and its advertising to do but it's just run by a couple and, you know, a few staff. So they haven't got time to spend, you know, sort of, going through a whole lot of sites and there may be more that I don't know about, putting their own information or- so they would need somebody to send it to, and to post it up on their behalf.

Well, I don’t just mean the pub, the commercial organisation, but the day centre, which does lunches for elderly people, it does trips out for elderly people and disabled people.

And so far as I can see, they haven't been advertised there online so far. That's where it could be a real asset to the community. Assuming of course, those very elderly and disabled people have access to their tablet or laptop or their phone to pick it up and see it. So that would be another arm of work, really to make that, kind of, enter people's consciousness and give them the equipment to do it if necessary, or make the equipment available to do it.

Ian: So the way things are now, say you were putting on an event at the village hall, in order to get everyone even just within [REDACTED PLACE NAME] and [REDACTED PLACE NAME], say, rather than the whole area to get everyone to know about it, what do you think you'd have to do?

Respondent: I’ve no idea. (Laughter) Sorry, I haven’t the faintest clue. The bowls club at the village hall have been using it because they are on a drive at the moment to try and get more younger people to join the bowling. And they have got a couple of postings up there, saying- I think they call it a [jump run 0:54:22] on a Saturday morning.

And I think that just means anybody can turn up and have a go at throwing bowls around. They have been using it for that.

Ian: So they've used the physical notice board?

Respondent: No. The [REDACTED PLACE NAME] and [REDACTED PLACE NAME] Community Hub.

Ian: They’ve used the community hub.

Respondent: Yes. Yes. We don't even know who's got a key to for the notice board these days, because that's probably gone off with the two people who resigned from the parish council.

Ian: Yes. I've seen a few notice boards like that, that have got a, kind of, key and then they haven't been changed and then in the end, people just start sticking things onto the glass.

Respondent: Yes. Well, I haven't done that yet. I can see it coming. Yes.

Ian: Okay. So the bowling club have used the Facebook group to say on Saturday mornings it's, kind of, an open thing for non-members?

Respondent: Yes. Yes.

Ian: So you could use- that's one way, obviously, of letting people know about things. And the other one, the only other ones you've mentioned are perhaps putting a notice up in the shop, Post Office building, or…

Respondent: Which is tiny. There isn't a notice board in the shop, I mean, we just have to put it in part of the window because it is a very, very tiny shop.

Ian: What about the other villages? Do you keep up to date with things that are happening across the four villages?

Respondent: Only through [REDACTED ORG]. I don't know how to access the information that’s put out by [REDACTED PLACE NAME] and [REDACTED PLACE NAME].

Ian: So when you say only through [REDACTED ORG], is that through your-

Respondent: Basically, yes.

Ian: Through meetings with the partnership?

Respondent: Yes. And that’s mostly when they come to us asking for some money to fund an individual project.

Ian: Yes. So that's you as [REDACTED ORG]. As a resident, if you put the hat on as a resident of [REDACTED PLACE NAME], how would you find out what was happening in the other villages?

Respondent: This is a criticism of me, but I wouldn't. I wouldn't know how.

Ian: Would you be interested though? Or would you just-

Respondent: Yes, I would, very. Yes. Yes.

Ian: I guess there's no local newspaper, is there?

Respondent: No, there isn’t. There’s the Morpeth paper and The Northumberland Gazette.

Ian: Yes, yes.

Respondent: But neither- I mean, whilst we’re in the areas, I don’t think- I've only seen [REDACTED PLACE NAME] feature in either of those papers when we had a murder here about a year ago.

Ian: Oh, dear.

Respondent: Yes.

Ian: Well, the person that started what became, I think The Daily Express or The Daily Mail, Lord Beaverbrook, his famous quote at the very start of Fleet Street when all these newspapers were starting in terms of, you know, what makes news, what sells newspapers, and his favourite, famous quote to his team of journalists was, “Get me a murder a day.”

Respondent: Yes. Absolutely. Dead ring on. Yes.

Ian: So I guess what I'm getting at is you’re a resident in [REDACTED PLACE NAME]. You know that you're in a smaller village and you know things might be happening down at [REDACTED PLACE] or in [REDACTED PLACE NAME]- Do people say ‘Lynn’ or ‘Lyne’.

Respondent: [REDACTED PLACE NAME]. It’s the River Lyne.

Ian: Right, yes. That makes sense. My sister is called ‘Lyne’ and it's the same spelling so I’m inclined-

Respondent: ‘[REDACTED PLACE NAME]’ means settlement on the river line because it's just up the road from here.

Ian: Oh, so Lin from [REDACTED PLACE NAME] comes from the river-

Respondent: Line, yes.

Ian: Yes.

Respondent: There is a medieval village of [REDACTED PLACE NAME], which is completely separate from [REDACTED PLACE NAME] Colliery, but it’s just up the road.

Ian: And do people still live there?

Respondent: Yes. But it's basically two big farms and a cluster of farm workers cottages.

Ian: Oh, okay. So yes, that was a medieval village. Yes. It would have been many, many people working and living in those couple of buildings, I guess.

Yes, I guess, do you think it's in…? I know you said you, kind of, don't and you find it difficult to find out why and you find out things from [ANON PERSON], but do you think it's important for residents of [REDACTED PLACE NAME] to know what's going on in the other villages?

Respondent: Yes, definitely. As part of [REDACTED ORG]’s legacy, which is what we're working on in these final months of working up to closing down in that we want to create a sense of identity for the [REDACTED ORG] villages so that they keep calling themselves the [REDACTED ORG] villages.

And to that end, we're just in the process of setting up a housing trust called [REDACTED ORG] VIP Villages in Partnership which will initially look at [REDACTED PLACE NAME] because that's where the most of the problems are. We'd really be looking at the quality of available housing and environment in the four villages.

In due course, after applying for a lot of funding, become a social landlord taking up- either taking on tenancies from private landlords that don’t want them anymore and can’t be bothered to run them correctly, or from housing associations that are having difficulty in letting certain projects, properties and some properties that are just almost abandoned, but we don't want them to go to waste.

And they’re doing up, you know, sort of, tenants attracted and that the [REDACTED ORG] VIP will become property managers and landlords. And we're very much looking to [REDACTED ORG] VIP as part of the [REDACTED ORG] legacy that will live on after we go to bits, after we go to…

Ian: So that's the one thing is about identity, like you said. So what, sort of, things aside from this joint housing, social housing initiative, what is it that you think- what is it for people in [REDACTED PLACE NAME], what's important for people in [REDACTED PLACE NAME] to know on a day to day basis about the other villages?

Respondent: About every three months, we do a [REDACTED ORG] Life magazine, which goes free door to door through letterboxes.

There's one just about to go to print now, and there will be, I think one or two more, before we go extinct. But that is exclusively talking about [REDACTED ORG] projects that we’ve funded and that are now coming to fruition. And there are some really good stories to tell. I mean, there’s the [Peel Tower 1:01:30] at [REDACTED PLACE NAME]. It's been fantastic.

And that's now coming to fruition, which took a post medieval ruin and has now put a roof on it and is now a community hub or will be available for village doos. That [REDACTED ORG] Life magazine goes letterbox to letterbox, free of charge once every three months or thereabouts.

Ian: So you said that- only you mentioned things that [REDACTED ORG] have funded. So in an ideal world, if it was just being a good community newsletter, what other stuff might it include?

Respondent: It does include an advert for the local [REDACTED PLACE NAME] Pharmacy, which has branches in villages around here. But apart from that, no, it’s just [ \_\_\_ 1:02:20].

Ian: What else could it, do you think, if you had more pages and it didn't cost more money-

Respondent: Yes. Given the editorial capacity, it could have all sorts of stuff in. Yes.

Ian: Yes. So what, sort of, things might you think would be good to share across the four villages? What, sort of, like news or information or things?

Respondent: It would be events, offers and… because it comes out every three months, individual events, like jumble sales and stuff like that would come in and go out of time before it got delivered. So it would have to be fairly, I should say, infrastructure sort of stuff rather than, kind of, community events, if that makes any sense.

Ian: Yes, it does. Yes. So from what you're saying, important, kind of, information that you might want to know about other villages is, actual physical events happening, something you could go, “I'll go to that.”?

Respondent: Yes. Yes.

Ian: Yes, okay. So like a, kind of, what's on thing that you could get maybe in a local newspaper.

Are there any other things, like what might be either useful or interesting for…?

Respondent: Well, if you could make the investment to make it a more frequent publication, then there could be a ‘What’s On? And there could be a for sale page and that, sort of, thing, really, but you know, with a three monthly publication, that's not really feasible.

Ian: Yes, of course. Yes, what about other stuff? If you go back to thinking of what you said about a shared identity or an identity, what, sort of, things might share across the villages that would support that?

Respondent: I don’t know really. You’ve got me there.

Ian: That's probably quite an impossible question, really. My head's going towards what you said about identity and because- the things that you've mentioned so far that people might want to share, it's like, as you were saying, you might typically just expect to have had that in a very local newspaper.

And I'm just wondering, you know, is it fruitful to think about, in terms of information and identity, what’s…? If we were to think about them as four villages as one, rather than just four separate villages, what is it that needs- What is that information? What is the stuff that's important to all the villages or that's important to the villages getting to know each other or whatever?

Respondent: Things like the youth clubs and where they're coming to. Sporting fixtures, you know, sort of, the bowls club is one and there are two football clubs in [REDACTED PLACE NAME] and [REDACTED PLACE NAME], you know, which will have advanced sporting fixtures.

There is a Scouts group now, is operating in the four villages. So there are things really that could do with being shared. But coming back to the [REDACTED PLACE NAME] and [REDACTED PLACE NAME] Facebook, if that could be extended to the other villages then I think that will be really good. I know it’s electronic and it may be limited- it may limit the number of people able to access it but we have got other, sort of, projects within [REDACTED ORG] on electronic communications and availability of equipment and broadband and things like that in the villages. But if that could be expanded and made accessible enough to enough parts of the community, young and old and in between, then I think that could be a really, really good medium because-

Ian: Do you think that would be able to, kind of, go at scale? You think, ‘I've lost my dog’ do you think… so somebody in [REDACTED PLACE], if someone in [REDACTED PLACE NAME] has lost their dog, is that information, can someone [REDACTED PLACE] do anything about that? Or the stuff about people selling things, is that irrelevant?

Respondent: I think lost dogs, probably not because that's likely to be very local to its own backyard, but yes, I think selling things and exchanging information on services available, like, ‘I need a painter and decorator, can anyone recommend one?’ I mean, we're close enough together to be served by a painter and decorator who could go to any of the villages.

Ian: Do you think there's different grades then, for example, if you’re saying, ‘I want a painter and decorator,’ you're like, that's relevant to all the villages, but some things like, ‘I've lost my dog’ or ‘I’ve heard there's going to be roadworks at the end of the street,’ you know, would you still want to post that to everyone?

Respondent: I don’t know. How would you not? I mean, would you have to have separate entries for people from [REDACTED PLACE NAME] and [REDACTED PLACE NAME]? I don’t know how you filter that out.

Ian: Yes. I mean, I'm not thinking in terms of, like, what would a system do, I'm not getting that far ahead.

I'm just thinking about the relevance of information. What I guess I'm trying to say is, do you think some information is relevant to some people, others relevant to more people?

Respondent: Yes.

Ian: So some stuff's, kind of, general and some stuff might just be local.

Respondent: Or the local stuff might be put on and just be capable of being ignored if it's not relevant to the bit where you live.

Ian: Yes, I guess there's two ways of thinking about it.

Respondent: Trying to have systems to filter it out or filter bits out- in the direction of one village and in the direction of another village, that would be a big resource issue because somebody will have to be- it would be a full-time job, wouldn’t it, basically?

Ian: I mean, you can automate some things like this, but I guess there's two ways to think about it.

You, as somebody who's got something to say, do you think it should be your responsibility to say, “I know who needs to hear this? And it's these people and these people,” or do you think as a, kind of, resident, do you think, like you say, “I like to just look on this group to see what's going on,” do you think it's that side of things?

At the minute, you're making a choice. You're only looking at this [REDACTED PLACE NAME] group, even though you know there are other Facebook pages for the other villages. So if you wanted to find out what's happening in [REDACTED PLACE], you could look at [REDACTED PLACE]'s version of that Facebook page, I guess. And you don't.

Respondent: I suppose.

Ian: Hmm.

Respondent: I suppose there would be an amount of skill needed for people who are posting to know where to put their bit of information on the site.

Ian: Hmmhmm. Yes. Yes. I guess that's what I'm thinking. Is it about people saying, “I know who needs to hear this,” or is it the responsibility of people going, “I know what I want to hear,” because right now you've got the- you can make a choice. You can say, “I just want to look at this [REDACTED PLACE NAME] group. And if I want to, I can look at [REDACTED PLACE],” but it would be different if people from [REDACTED PLACE] were posting stuff in the [REDACTED PLACE NAME] group because they were saying, “Everybody needs to hear this.”

I guess that's the, kind of, two ways of thinking about it. Do you control it as a poster or do you control it as, kind of, the person that's visiting-

Respondent: Administrator, yes. Don’t know.

Ian: I was just guessing. I was saying what you think you would prefer? Yes, I don't want to start thinking about what anything might look like anyway, because that gets you stuck down different passages. I guess, just a couple more questions just to finish off then.

Respondent: That’s okay.

Ian: Yes. Do you think that being a member of these Facebook groups is a good way to participate and know what's going on in the community?

Respondent: Well, I suppose it is, but my experience is so limited that I couldn't really comment actually because this [REDACTED PLACE NAME] and [REDACTED PLACE NAME] one is the only one I've looked at, the only one I've used. So I probably wouldn't give you particularly a valuable point of view, really.

Ian: Okay. So not getting too caught up in the technical challenges or the amount of people that would need to work and things like that, but is there anything from potentially the real world, the physical world, or whatever, that you think certain qualities or certain characteristics that you would love to be able to recreate in a, kind of, digital space? If you get what I mean by that question?

Respondent: I think that's above my pay grade.

Ian: (Laughter) Yes. For example, you know, you said you have privacy concerns with having a Facebook account, but you don’t have privacy concerns going into the village hall or reading a notice board?

Respondent: No, no, no.

Ian: Yes. So I guess that's what I was thinking. Are there any, kind of… So what would you have to change about Facebook and the Facebook groups to feel comfortable joining in, I guess, is a better way of thinking about it.

Respondent: Let me give you an example about something that's absolutely nothing to do with Facebook. I took my car in for service a couple of months ago and it had to go to the BM dealership, BMW dealership down at the [Bull’s End 1:13:38]. And I took it in and I said, “Can you give me an MOT and a service please?”

And the man behind the counter said, “Oh, yes. And you need your brake fluid topping up.” And so I said, “No, I don't think so.” He said, “Oh, yes, it's on the system.” And he explained that the fin, I think, on the back of the roof, which I just thought was a sat nav aerial, is constantly sending messages to BMW, which puts it on the BMW system.

And it was all there on the system at the garage. Now then that took me back a little bit, because what's to say- this is where my cranky thinking goes. What's to stop the fin thing on the back of my car, sending a message to somebody else, like, the police that says ‘Respondent's just parked on a double yellow line’ and that's the, kind of, offshoot thing of the privacy aspect that worries me. Does that make sense?

Ian: Yes, yes, absolutely. My whole big research project I work on is all about these unintended consequences of technology.

Respondent: Yes, good word. Unintended consequences. Yes.

Ian: And another one is you might not want your insurance company to get a record of every time you've driven a little bit too fast or put the brakes on too much.

Respondent: Yes, absolutely. Yes, yes, yes.

Ian: So you've touched on that element of people just collecting data because it might be used by other people.

Respondent: I mean, I'm sure it happens all the time. Every time I walk into Tesco, you know, they know exactly what, sort of, coffee I drink and they know all that, sort of, stuff.

So I'm sure it's happening all the time, but that one just did give me a little bit of, sort of, a setback, thinking, “Ooh, I'm not sure I like this.”

Ian: So what would Facebook have to do to get rid of your privacy concerns, for example?

Respondent: I have no idea. I don’t know. (Laughter)

Ian: You would like to just not have to sign in and give any details? You'd like to just be-

Respondent: I'd like to sign in as Joe Bloggs at 53 Acacia Avenue and it be a completely fictitious person. And just look at.

Ian: So anonymity.

Respondent: I don’t think that’s allowed, is it?

Ian: No, no. That's what I was getting at.

I guess you want the right to remain anonymous when you're looking at local information about what's going on. Okay. That's exactly what I was asking. Yes.

Respondent: Yes, yes.

Ian: So you would like to just be anonymous, like you could if you went into a village hall, you don't have to go up to everyone and go, “This is my name. This is the year I was born.”

Respondent: Exactly, yes. Yes.

Ian: Okay, great. So the right to remain anonymous. Just before we finish, is there anything else along those lines that you feel you'd want to…?

Respondent: No, the anonymity bit is important to me. Plus all the stuff that you hear, you know, with these poor footballers who've been, you know, targeted on Twitter and things like that, you know, sort of, that personal stuff and knowing who you are and where you live and all the [ \_\_\_ 1:16:58] that they've received- and other people do too, of course, in all walks of life. That really gives me the heebie-jeebies.

Ian: Hmmhmm. And that's enough for you to say, “I don't need a Facebook account,” despite you thinking, “I might be missing out on some…”

Respondent: Exactly, exactly. That's exactly it in a nutshell. Yes.

Ian: Great. Well, I feel exactly the same about Facebook as well.

Respondent: (Laughter) Well there you are.

Ian: Okay. Well that has been really, really interesting and-

Respondent: Yes, ditto. It's been interesting for me. Thank you very much.

Ian: Yes. Thank you for answering all the questions and just, have you got any questions for me?

Respondent: Yes. What happens next?

Ian: So I'll want to speak to as many people as possible over the next couple of weeks or so.

And then I'll start, I guess, producing a report like for [REDACTED ORG] because I want to speak to the people that run the Facebook groups, the people that just use the Facebook groups, the people that run things in the real world- as many people as I can. And then I'll try and produce a report. And I don't know exactly what the focus of the report will be, but it will be something like ‘here's how people are currently using/accessing information and how information and stuff, kind of, works in the [REDACTED ORG] area,’ I guess, roughly.

And then based on that, we might sit down and go, “If we were to change things or make something new or whatever, what would that start to look like for this specific context.” But this mapping out of the context is, it will be in the form of these kinds of interviews. I might even do some more focus group where I speak to three or four people at once and I’ll just keep-

Yes, getting an idea of just the current state, I guess. And like I said to [ANON PERSON], hopefully that's useful to the partnership anyway. Rather than doing a survey through people's doors or an online survey, just getting a more in depth-

Respondent: Surveys turn people off. Every time somebody mentions doing a survey, everybody says, “Well, we did one of those last year.” That’s it. “Why do you want to do another one?”

Ian: So hopefully by speaking to different people from different villages, with different experiences, we just build this, kind of, rich, more rich picture about what people are doing in the villages and how the villages are different and how different people use different things like Facebook or WhatsApp or Zoom or whatever else.

Respondent: Great, lovely. Look forward to seeing the next stage. Thank you very much, indeed. Interesting.

Ian: Yes. Thank you very much.