Building Generationally Intelligent Communities for Low Income Earners

Christine Morka

&

Simon Biggs

Biggs & Morka 2010 Brotherhood of St Lawrence
Clifton Hill: experimental ageing

• ‘Know-how for life’
• ‘Intergenerational sustainability’
• ‘Socially valued lifestyle’
• ‘Community transformation’
• ‘Preventative intelligence’
‘Older people tend to spend more time at home and in the immediate outdoor environment than do younger people’ Oswald et al (2005)

may feel an even greater sense of being trapped or disadvantaged by urban decay, and that this may limit their ability to maintain a sense of self-identity’ Scharf et al (2005)

Without adequate intergenerational ties this can evolve into an experience of being pushed out or left behind in a hostile environment (Biggs & Tinker, 2007)
London Pilot: Age Friendly Environments

- Think beyond families
- Local environments & short distances
- Shared interests between generations
- Lifecourse: stability and change
- The absence of ‘neighbourhood’ and the need for community spaces

Biggs & Morka 2010 Brotherhood of St Llawrence
BSL’s Working Definition for Inclusion

• ‘A social inclusion approach involves the building of personal capacities and material resources, in order to fulfil one’s potential for economic and social participation, and thereby a life of common dignity.’

(Smyth, 2007)
Clifton Hill Target Group

• Low income isolated older adults
• Vulnerable to social fragmentation and exclusion
• Can’t afford to ‘buy into’ retirement communities
• Need flexible work-life opportunities
• ‘Know-how for life’
Generating Clifton Hill

• What does it mean to live a ‘good long life’?
• Need a space for experiment and for taking risks (two words not commonly associated with old age)
• What do sustainable intergenerational relations look like?
• How are these things reflected in the built environment?
New Hope for Old Age