

30.01.04.

HW

Listening

COMMUNITY.

Brian

Four areas of enquiry into listening:

- ①. What do we listen to?
- ②. What do we feel we've been listened to?
- ③. What prevents us from listening?

NB: There are just any
current thoughts, I haven't
done any reading yet!

(you may not like this!! ☹)

Is there a problem with the word 'Community' for me? Yes, rather ridiculously, for me 'community' is a depressing word. I associate it with social work, income support, non-achievement, poor housing conditions, single mums... problem, problem, problem... I associate it with Youth Work and decent but martyr-minded Youth workers (My Mother was a Youth-worker at Thoreshead Youth Club for a number of years! ☺)

Community for me is a group of people disadvantaged with certain conditions (while getting together (complaining (taking a stand never really get anywhere & are always defeated by themselves or outside forces who don't listen or don't care so they are constantly in a place of victimization. "Community" is a boring, bleak, depressing unglamorous inactive state of affairs & one I'd rather steer very clear off! HOWEVER, in one there is another way of looking at it ☺

- What are the problems inherent in the idea of listening to a Community?
 - Being able to listen to everyone, each individual (time)
 - Discerning / prioritising without hurting / offending.
 - Getting everyone to speak / have a say / step out of opacity (if they have it)
 - Where do you start? with whom do you start?

- which problem / issue is the most important to deal with if you only have limited resources?
- ~~making~~ ^{allowing} everyone ^{to} feel they have been heard.
- setting up a space for people to speak
 - ... setting the environment so they feel they can speak safely / comfortably / confidentially (where they would like to go to).
- Having respect & credibility for self & other. ~~for~~
 - ... listen to the Community because you feel like it's something you'd really like to do / feel inspired to do, to take action in that way -- avoid martyrdom / the hero trap.
- Being in a neutral / emotional space / place to listen without fear or prejudice.
- The problems inherent in listening to a community ~~are~~ ~~the~~ ~~same~~ is in one way the same as the problem of listening to a single person: It takes will & effort to listen properly, it is hard work to keep the consciousness clear & focused.

How do you listen?

- Give each person who speaks your full & complete attention, weighing each word and understanding each utterance.
- The Will to listen needs to care for the Will / for the Community, always to you in some way.

To Truly help a Community / group requires the moving out of laziness (work) or the resistance engendered by fear (courage)