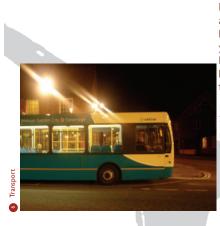


You come up Six Hills in Stevenage and there's a roundabout there. You come down you've got one there, you come up you've got a little one there, you've got another one there. Yeah you've got roundabouts coming out your eyes.

One of the most successful schemes is SCooTS. The rural scooter transport scheme in North Herts provides a loan scooter for people living in a rural area to go rural to rural, rural to urban or urban to rural, just not urban to urban. It's enabled people to remain in their village.

### You don't go out to catch a bus



I used to walk quite a lot.You meet a lot of people while you're walking... I think people get to know the dogs more than their owners.

If you miss the bus that's it, you have to wait for an hour. If you stand at the village bus stop someone mad like me will pick you up.

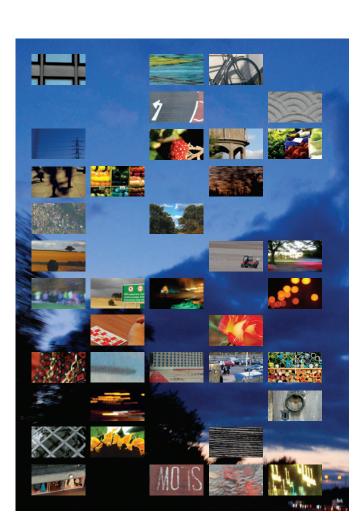


# With Our Ears to the Ground: Transport

Alice Angus and Orlagh Woods

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## With Our Ears to the Ground

.everways. county in cars, trains, by cycle and on foot, on narrow lanes and urban centres, towns and villages and travelled through the its communities through the stories of its people. We researched we put our ears to the ground and got to know Hertfordshire and agricultural land and urban centres. In the weeks that followed It was a journey through old and new; market towns, new towns, down to Pirton, Hitchin across to Watford and back to London. over to Ware and Stevenage then Letchworth, up to Ashwell, day to drive up through Cheshunt, Broxbourne and Hoddesdon, North Hertfordshire and Broxbourne. We set out on an autumn Hertfordshire meeting over 280 people from Watford, Stevenage, In mid 2009 we (arts organisation Proboscis) travelled around

.enoitsoilduq and Perceptions, which now form the basis for the project Transport, Movement, Listening, Community, Getting Involved and events. From this research emerged the six themes of a youth group and collected stories through other activities and visiting community groups. We ran a creative workshop with conversations on the street, hosting a stall at the local market and rural villages. We captured their views through informal samall organisations, schools, community groups, urban centres the ages of 5 and 94, from many cultures and backgrounds, from are relevant to Hertfordshire as a whole. We met people between a sense of belonging. These experiences, whilst locally specific, what it's like living in their neighbourhoods and what gives them We gathered their opinions and experiences of their communities, pubs, cafes, community centres, libraries, at home and at work. We talked to people in groups, individually, inside, outside, in



Woods Studio for their support.

To find out more or share your thoughts about your community see: http://withouwsarcbineground.wordpress.com Tei. Hartfordshire Council Stratégic Parthrarships Unit. 01992 555709 For information on volunteering in Hertfordshire see www.volunteeringherts.org

#### **Credits**

**Thanks** 

With Our Ears to the Ground was created and published by Proboscis 2009

Proboscis are an arts organisation based in London www.proboscis.org.uk Proboscis team: Alice Angus, Giles Lane, Orlagh Woods Designer: Proboscis with Sharkhan Lai

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Young Parents To Be Group. We'd also like to thank National Express at Broxbourne Station and Tony Beckwith, Adriana Marques, Nicola Paddick and Ali Winstanley of Haring

Ethnic Forum: people outside Stevenage Job Centre: Pirton Joycare: The Priory School Ethnic Forum: people outside Stevenage Inhown Training: Kristy Thackur, Stevenage Community Development Officers: Stevenage Inhown Training: Kristy Thackur, Wattord Market: Wattord Muslim Women's Organisation: Wattord Skate Park: Bowes Lyon

Hoddesdon Rotary Club: Kimpton Bench Working Party: Leavesden Green Community Cafe: Ricky Manning: Meriden Community Bar: North Herts College Supported Learners Group: North Herts Community Development Officers and Wendy Tooke: North Herts Party Barty Community Development Officers and Wendy Tooke: North Herts Composition

Voluntary Service Broxbourne and East Herts: Chells Manor Youth Club. Douglas Drive Day Centre: Great Ashby Community Centre: residents of Halthide Lane Caravan Park (A Hertfordshire County Council Gypsy site); Kevin Harris: Hertfordshire Music Service:

Peppina Albanese, Age Concern Hertfordshire; Broxbourne Station commuters; Council for

The text in this book is quoted or paraphrased from conversations with people in The text in this book is quoted or paraphrased from conversations with people of Hertfordshire who participated in With Our Ears to the Ground especially to the people of Hertfordshire who were so welcoming and gave their time so generously. Thank you to all on this list, to anyone not included here and to the people we spoke to informally along the way:

A Proboscis project commissioned by Green Heart Partnership with Hertfordshire County Council to explore

peoples ideas about community. Part 1 of 6 eBooks based on the limited edition

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### 800

Council England, East sponsored Arts Generate project funded by its partners; the eleven Ground was supported by a partnership of representatives from Hertfordshire County Council, Watford Borough Council, North Hertfordshire District Council, Stevenage Borough Council and Broxbourne Borough Council. Green Heart Partnership is an Arts With Our Ears to the Ground is a Perception Area project facilitated by Green Heart Partnership in collaboration with Hertfordshire County Council. With Our Ears to the

government priorities. www.greenheartpartnership.org SSAIDDI







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feel valued, get along well together and feel they belong.

With Our Ears to the Ground is a project by arts organisation Proboscis. It was commissioned by Green Heart Partnership with Hertfordshire County Council. It builds upon previous consultations, by Hertfordshire County Council, that used traditional surveys to find out how well people from different backgrounds get on with each other. This publication and the project research will be presented to the community, Council Members and Project Team to inform the Hertfordshire Forward Community Cohesion Strategy, equalities planning across the county, and to support the partners to build stronger communities where people

and voices. Alice Angus and Orlagh Woods, Proboscis 2009

This book is one of 6 that are based on the limited edition publication printed to accompany the project. It draws together the multiple layers of ideas and experiences we found across different communities and it is designed to reflect those ideas

Our enduring experience of this journey has been of the generosity of the people, the ambition of their ideas and the determination and commitment they devote to building their communities.

to informally and creatively excavate layers of meaning and understanding to get beneath the surface of some of Hertfordshire's communities.

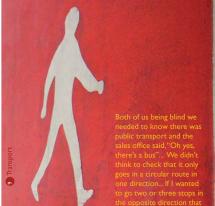
In all this we've taken Proboscis' anarchaeology approach,

by transport networks; affecting access to local facilities people described how their neighbourhoods are defined From senior citizens to young people and commuters,

Iransport interconnect. of people, who they meet and how their communities communities. These physical aspects influence the flow and public spaces where people come together to build

people to participate in their communities; with the elderly transport and parking also has an impact on the ability of something as simple as inadequate parking. Access to Disputes within neighbourhoods can be caused by to develop defined communities with a sense of identity. also form a protective barrier allowing neighbourhoods from connecting with those on the other side, but can positive difference. The roads can prevent communities Often simple changes, like a lollipop lady, can make a movement of people and their access to common spaces. Major roads like the A41, A505 and the MI can define the

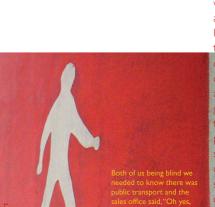




guide dogs. In Stevenage, it's all pedestrianised, I can take my grand-daughters out which I

would never have done in London. It's given me my confidence back.

Sometimes because of the way the houses are built and the lack of car parking, the closeness does produce disagreements. It's also part of the vernment initiative to make people use public transport... sustainable modes of transport or something. Some of the roads are so narrow people e to park on the vement to let cars Dass I had a bad accident several years ago. I was knocked down in London while out with my



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mont s'ti szilden

τρελ ατε οτ what they do. years. I don't know who train for the last 10 - 15 oud u l've seen people on the no⁄ uə brain in neutral. erer of the second s after work... I put my iuiui ορροιτιπητή το ωιπά άοψη pecause it gives me the

if there is a disaster on the

other if there is a problem,

People only talk to each



Leavesden Community Café stroke, he's the carer, usual ent of the eme out to the couple of older ladies who coming, we've got a Especially with winter

for a grant as we needed transport organised. moment so what do you them to get some sort of My transport is full at the we could do something for to come to the Italian Club raining so it'd be nice if to give them both a break bnb blos gnizserf 2'ti nedw Situation, and we're trying Typical story, wife's had a

disabled person. driver to look after that also need the appropriate from a neighbour, but you a free bus pass or a lift aven yant eause they have bus that can get public Is there someone on the do? You have to prioritise.

Centre, l'd never leave the house. come to the Douglas Drive Day If it wasn't for being collected to

a ramp the other end but he struggles walking there. It's all to do with finance, there's

I'm still waiting to hear about a rail to help us get down the steps.

to continue.

s'nsmoW

milsuM to come to

more money

got it.We need Group and we

older people collect the

for a bus to

I made some new friends on a bus. The bus from Pirton to Hitchin is very social. You go to catch

not been the same since. It had more shops and more life but they put a one way system through and destroyed the centre... Hoddesdon's people, rather than walking. restricts you from meeting I drive most places, which

or they get isolated. community centre able to walk to the older people to be It's important for















