Democracy Day

29th January 2020
Parliament Buildings, Stormont

#democracyday
#civicinnovation
@cfnireland
Welcome to Stormont

Chris Lyttle, MLA
Welcome from the Community Foundation

Andrew McCracken, CEO
Overview of the day

Paul Braithwaite, Community Foundation
Programme

9.30 am Welcome

10am Keynote: Dr. Ian O’Flynn
Discussion, Q&A
First round of pitches

10.45am Keynote: Kelly McBride
Discussion, Q&A
Second round of pitches

11.30am BREAK

11.40am Keynote: Neil Jameson
Discussion, Q&A
Third round of pitches

12.30pm LUNCH

1pm Global Café discussion

2pm BREAK

2.10pm Global Café discussion continued

3.10pm Final shortlisting
Outcome & next steps

4pm CLOSE
Civic Innovation Programme

“supports initiatives that put people at the centre of decision-making in Northern Ireland”
Framework

Deliberative & Participatory Democracy
+ Collaboration
+ Innovation
Process

Intensive project design support
+
Expertise on public participation
+
Grant-funding
Stages

55 Expressions of Interest ➔ 30 shortlisted ideas

Democracy Day

15 ideas & teams

Feb to April 2020

Civic Innovation Co-Design Process

May to Aug 2020

15 x ‘Prototyping’ grants (up to £5k)

Sept 2020 to Feb 2022

10 x Main grants (up to £50k)
Getting your input:

Mentimeter

Grab your phone or laptop or tablet

Open a web browser

Go to www.menti.com

Input this code: 67 79 85

Answer the questions on screen
Keynote speaker
Dr. Ian O’Flynn,
Newcastle University
Deliberative Democracy in Deeply Divided Societies

Dr Ian O’Flynn
School of Geography, Politics and Sociology
Newcastle University
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 7RU
ian.oflynn@ncl.ac.uk
@Delibnet
What is deliberative democracy?

• Deliberative democracy is a form of democracy that emphasises the importance of taking political decisions on their merits.

• To that end, people exchange reasons with the aim of arriving at an agreed judgement.

• What matters is not the force of numbers but the force of the better argument.

• But this supposes that conditions can be created that enable people to have their say.

• It also supposes that people will listen with an open mind to what others have to say.
You can’t be serious?!

• By a ‘deeply divided’ society I mean a society in which at least one major segment or community has fundamental doubts about the legitimacy of the state.

• In societies of this sort, there is often a lot of social segregation.

• Social segregation suggests that the prospects for deliberation are likely to be poor.

• There may be ‘enclave deliberation’ between people on the same side.

• But enclave deliberation can be highly polarizing.

• In a nutshell, deliberation may make things worse.
People who say that deliberation is impossible or undesirable often overlook an important point: 

*Neither the commitment to nor the capacity for arriving at deliberative decisions is something that we can simply assume to obtain independent from the proper ordering of institutions. The institutions ... determine whether there is equality, whether deliberation is free and reasoned, whether there is autonomy; and so on’* (Cohen 1989, p. 26).

A lot of work has been done on designing institutions for deliberation in ‘normal’ democratic societies.

Much less has been done on deeply divided societies ... but that is slowly changing.
Deliberative power-sharing?

• Some aspects of Northern Ireland’s democratic power-sharing arrangements are unlikely to foster deliberation.
• E.g., the process by which the FM and DFM are appointed.
• It’s all about being the biggest party in your community.
• But that can easily encourage ‘outbidding’.
• This can mean that moderation is often in short supply.
• But without moderation, deliberation is unlikely to flourish.
• Some positive developments of late.
• E.g., the introduction of a justificatory clause into the petition of concern mechanism (New Decade, New Approach, Annex B, paras. 2.2.1., 2.2.7 & 2.3)
• Some reason for optimism.
• **Northern Ireland** (2007): Catholics came to see Protestants as more open to reason and trustworthy, and Protestants came to see Catholics as more open to reason.
• **Belgium** (2010): the quality of deliberation was higher in linguistically mixed groups (Dutch and French) than in linguistically homogenous groups (Dutch or French).
• **Iraq** (2017): Kirkuki Arabs, Kurds and Turkomans supported both regional autonomy and an equal say. Turkomans’ support increased significantly after having deliberated in mixed groups.
• Not always so positive.
• **Columbia** (2016): deliberation in situations of protracted violence has to be preceded by efforts at increasing inter-group trust.
Some concluding thoughts

• Evidence suggests that deliberation across deep divides is possible.

• In the public sphere random selection and assignment are likely to be crucial if ‘enclave deliberation’ is to be avoided.

• Publicity is also likely to be vital.

• Showing that ordinary people can meaningfully deliberate and arrive at decisions that are good for all may have a moderating effect on politics more generally.

• It may make it harder for politicians to engage in ‘outbidding’ (or in ‘playing the ethnic card’).

• The challenge, however, is to get (or oblige!) politicians to pay attention.

• Reform of power-sharing institutions may be crucial here.

• Reasons for optimism, but much more work to be done.
Talk to the people around you for a few minutes. Think about:

- What resonated with you?
- What was new or different?
- Are there any implications for the ideas being pitched?
- What questions do you have?

Input your questions or comments via Mentimeter.
First round of pitches!

- Age NI
- Belfast City Council
- Connected Citizens
- Conradh na Gaeilge
- Conversations NI
- Community Dialogue
- CDHN
- Community Places
- CAN
- Co-operation Ireland
Keynote speaker

Kelly McBride,
The Democratic Society
What does digital democracy look like?

This...

...and this!
Benefits of digital

• Reach new audiences
• Involve more people in decision making
• Overcome barriers of place and time
• Harness the power of networks
• Starts conversations and build relationships
• Openness and transparency
• Mobile and integration with other methods
• Developing new skills and ways of working.
Examples

1. Crowdsourcing and idea generation
2. Collaborative drafting and proposals
3. Deliberation, dialogue, debate
4. Participatory budgeting
5. Voting
6. Live participation
7. Open government
8. ... and more!
Crowdsourcing and idea generation

Source: delib.net/dialogue
Collaborative drafting and proposals

Source: www.futuremelbourne.com.au

Source: https://participedia.net/case/5726
Deliberation

Consider.it

Citizens’ Foundation (Iceland)
Voting options were selected or removed: 112,508 times
Map explored 2,041 times
Projects were explored 11,545 times
Project Design PDFs were opened 1,729 times
4,300 evaluation survey responses from the 11,472 voters
Participatory Budgeting: ‘Oor Bit’ Fife Council

166 ideas
(99 online, 67 offline)

1,406 votes
(40% online, 60% offline)
Voting

Participatory budget results
Calton W9

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<th>Proposal title</th>
<th>Votes</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Available budget</th>
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<tr>
<td>Baltic Street/Adventure Playground - Garden/Sensory Land Purchase - £27,300</td>
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<td>£27,300</td>
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<tr>
<td>PEEK - Street PEEN on Transit (SPOT1) - £44,500</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>£44,500</td>
<td>£26,000</td>
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Source: https://glacalton.communitychoices.scot (CONSUL)
Which would you support as the Citizen’s Assembly biscuit?

1. Teacakes 23%
2. Shortbread 22%
3. Snowball 10%
4. Caramel Wafer 36%
5. None 10%
Open Government

![Source: https://tablero.gobabiertomx.org/](https://tablero.gobabiertomx.org/)
And more!

- Communicating information and process details
- Learning for democracy
- Open up meetings

- Fact checking
- Citizen report cards
- Argument representation
Things to consider...

• Loads of options!
• It’s not just about the tool - it’s how you use it
• “Build it and they will come” - there is no magic tool
• Digital divide (not everyone is online)
• Echo-chambers and reaching wider
• Cannot completely replace face-to-face
• Test with the users
• Security and accessibility
• Cost of different options (including open source)
• Skills to develop, moderate and participate.
Share learning
Talk to the people around you for a few minutes. Think about:

- What resonated with you?
- What was new or different?
- Are there any implications for the ideas being pitched?
- What questions do you have?

Input your questions or comments via Mentimeter
Second round of pitches!

- Derry City & Strabane Council
- Development Trusts NI
- FactCheck NI
- Garvagh Development Trust
- Holywood Shared & Transition Town
- Integrated Education Fund
- Dee Harvey
- NI Open Government Network
- NI Youth Forum
- Newry, Mourne & Down Community Planning Partnership
Keynote speaker

Neil Jameson, Citizens UK
Video available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6aZ_8P8WZg
Talk to the people around you for a few minutes. Think about:

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Third round of pitches!

- North-West Migrants’ Forum
- NUS-USI
- St. Columb’s Hall Trust
- South Eastern Regional College
- Tullyally & Currynierin Community Associations
- Victim Support NI
- Voice of Young People in Care
- Working Group for Aarhus Centre Ireland
- Youth Action NI
After lunch: Global Café

- Each ‘pitcher’ hosts a table conversation
- Choose 4 ideas you’d like to hear more about and/or contribute to
- 4 rotations of 30 minutes each, comprising:
  - More detail about the idea
  - Feedback & discussion
  - Consider if you could get involved
  - Possible mergers & connections
- At the end: sign up for a team! (or don’t)
Objective: identify 15 ideas and teams to go forward to the co-design process

1. Recap of remaining ideas
2. Minimum collaboration threshold: 3 people, 2 organisations
3. (if needed) Vote
While vote is being prepared:

Your feedback please!

Back to www.menti.com
Next steps

Idea owners (pitchers):

- Agree meeting location with team
- Add any new collaborators by Friday 7th Feb

All other team members:

- Confirm availability for all co-design workshops

Everyone:

- Give us some feedback, and help us improve for next time!
Co-design Workshop Dates

Belfast Workshops:
• Wednesday 12th February 2020; 9.30am - 1.30pm
• Wednesday 26th February 2020; 9.30am - 4.30pm
• Wednesday 11th March 2020; 9.30am - 4.30pm

Derry/Londonderry Workshops:
• Thursday 13th February 2020; 9.30am - 1.30pm
• Thursday 27th February 2020; 9.30am - 4.30pm
• Thursday 12th March 2020; 9.30am - 4.30pm

Final Workshop (All teams):
• Thursday 2nd April 2020; 9.30am - 1.30pm, Stormont
Neil Jameson @Neil.JamesonUK 3d
Looking forward to joining others @CFNIreland 'Democracy Day' @stormonttweets on 29th January - will the punters opt for power, participation & authentic democracy (@CitizensUK) or vote for the softer options which change little?

Paul Braithwaite @PJ_Braithwaite 2d
#democracyday is finally here! Full day of speakers, civicinnovation idea pitches and collaboration up at #stormont - all about greater public participation in decision-making @CFNIreland @imagineBelfast @involveUK @demsoc @NeilJamesonUK @niexecutive

Joel Anderson @JoelCDHN 2d
Very excited to be at @CFNIreland DemocracyDay. CDHN_NI are pitching our civicinnovation idea to provide greater opportunities for ordinary people to engage with health & social care decision-making spaces!

Moira Sinclair @MoiraSinclair1 2d
Pitches just about to start, the first of 30, @CFNIreland Democracy Day. Ideas include using forum theatre to bring voices of people with learning disabilities to decision makers; citizens assemblies; new apps to share key information; youth forums...

Moira Sinclair @MoiraSinclair1 2d
Gorgeous light in Belfast, visiting orgs that @phf_uk funds and to participate in @CFNIreland's Democracy Day. My first time in the Parliament buildings, surprised that I'm in the majority when those around me represent such rich civil society

Chris Lyttle MLA @Chris_Lyttle 2d
Privilege to sponsor #democracyday @niassembly today. @CFNIreland doing great work to facilitate innovative public participation in democratic change.

Kate Hitchcock @HitchcockKate 2d
Stormont selfie! Here for #democracyday with @CFNIreland - excited for some civicinnovation @phf_uk

Paul Braithwaite @PJ_Braithwaite 2d
#democracyday is finally here! Full day of speakers, civicinnovation idea pitches and collaboration up at #stormont - all about greater public participation in decision-making @CFNIreland @imagineBelfast @involveUK @demsoc @NeilJamesonUK @niexecutive
Brendan McAleer @brendanmacal... 2d
Delighted to join @CFNIreland for democracyday good luck to all pitching. #CivicInnovation

NI Youth Forum @NIYF 2d

‘Money is important when you think about where power is coming from’

‘If you take money from the government you have to do what government wants you to do’

‘We need to organise’

Powerful input by @NeilJamesonUK @CitizensUK

#DemocracyDay #CivicInnovation #CFNIreland

FutureSpark Coaching @futures... 2d
The Democracy Inspector and idea pitchers doing a great job with a one-minute pitch @beggs_stephen @ExploringChange @PJ_Braithwaite @CFNIreland @FmFacilitation @involveUK #democracyday

Pádraig Ó Tiarnaigh @ptierna... 2d
Tá @CnaG anseo ag Cnoc an Anfádon Lá Daonlathais chuán ár smaointí a chur chuán cinn

We are at @CFNIreland Democracy Day at Stormont pitching our idea on democratic dialogue, community engagement with new Irish Language Commissioner & ensuring we have a strong voice going forward

Jill Caskey @j_cask 2d
Great buzz at Democracy Day, thanks to @CFNIreland for encouraging more civic engagement in democracy. @IEFNI pitching for more community and family involvement in the planning of our schools, underpinned by facilitation and a research based approach

Victim Support NI @VictimSuppo... 2d
We’re at the @CFNIreland #DemocracyDay event in Stormont. Looking forward to sharing our ideas about how we can all work to make things better for victims of crime in #NorthernIreland

SOS Bus NI @SOSBUSNI 2d
Looking forward to hearing first 10 pitches at @CFNIreland Democracy Day #civicinnovation #acheivingimpact

Community Places @Community... 2d
Looking forward to pitching this morning at democracy day! And hearing all the other pitches @niassembly @CFNIreland #civicengagement #participatoryplanning #voice