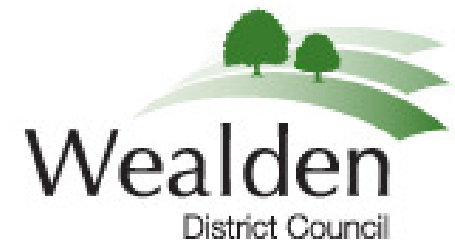
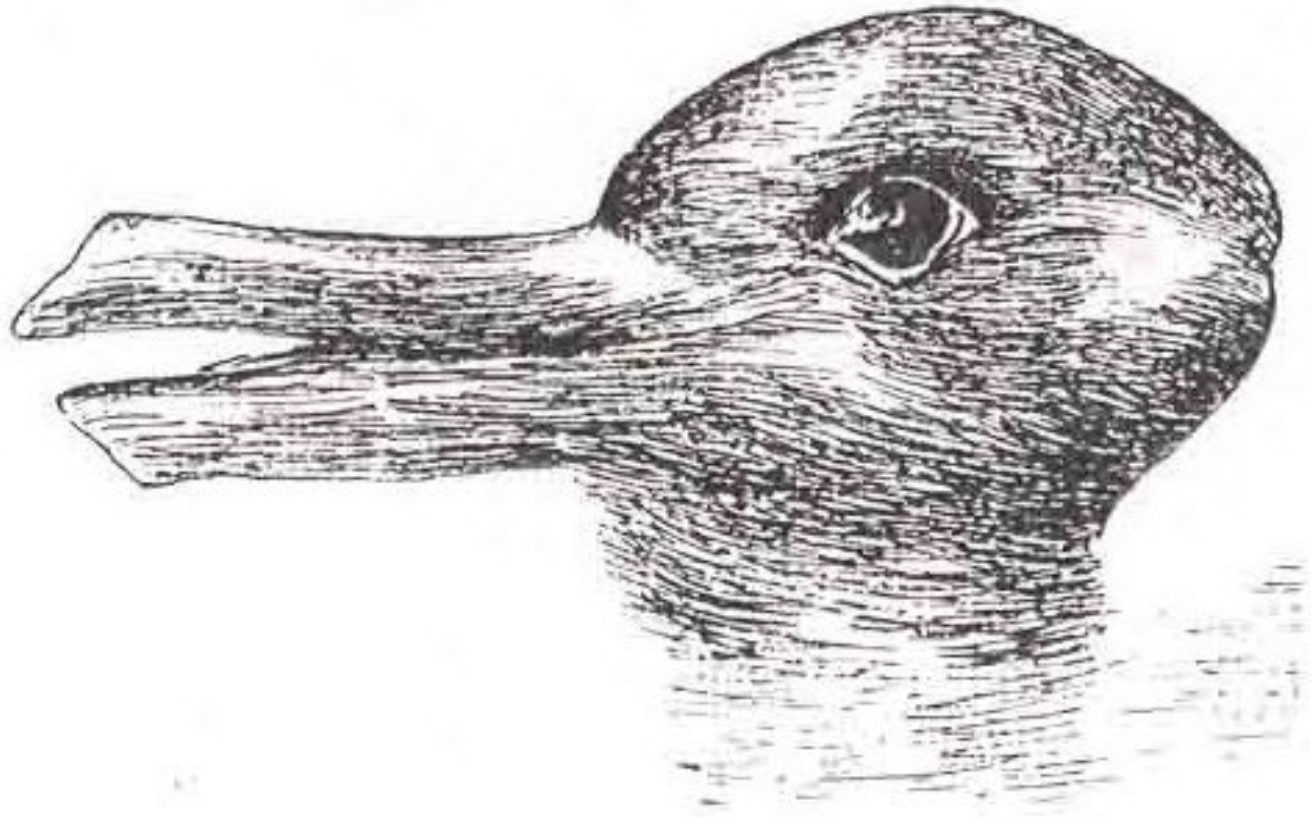


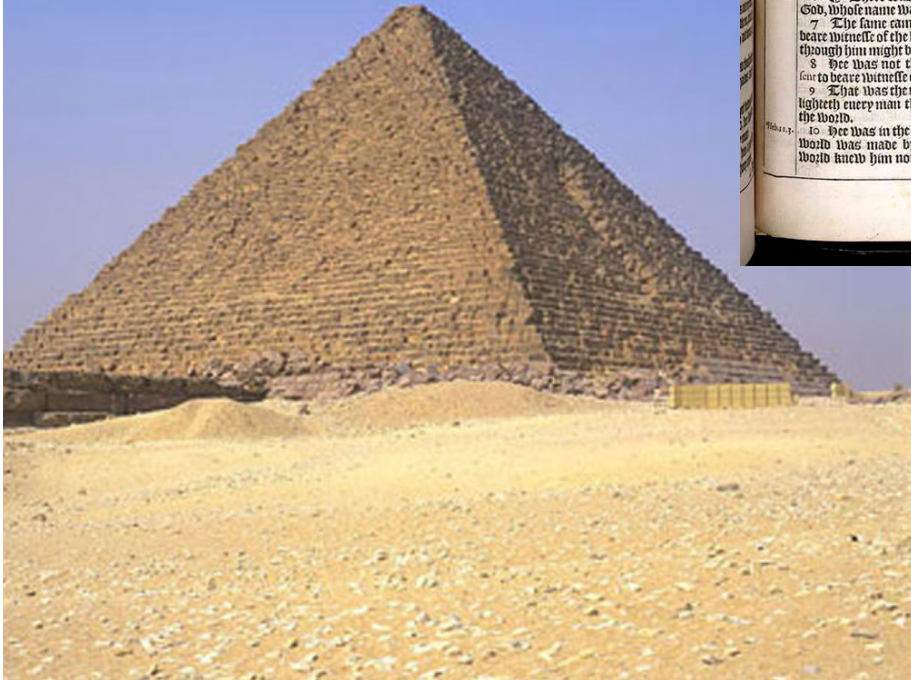
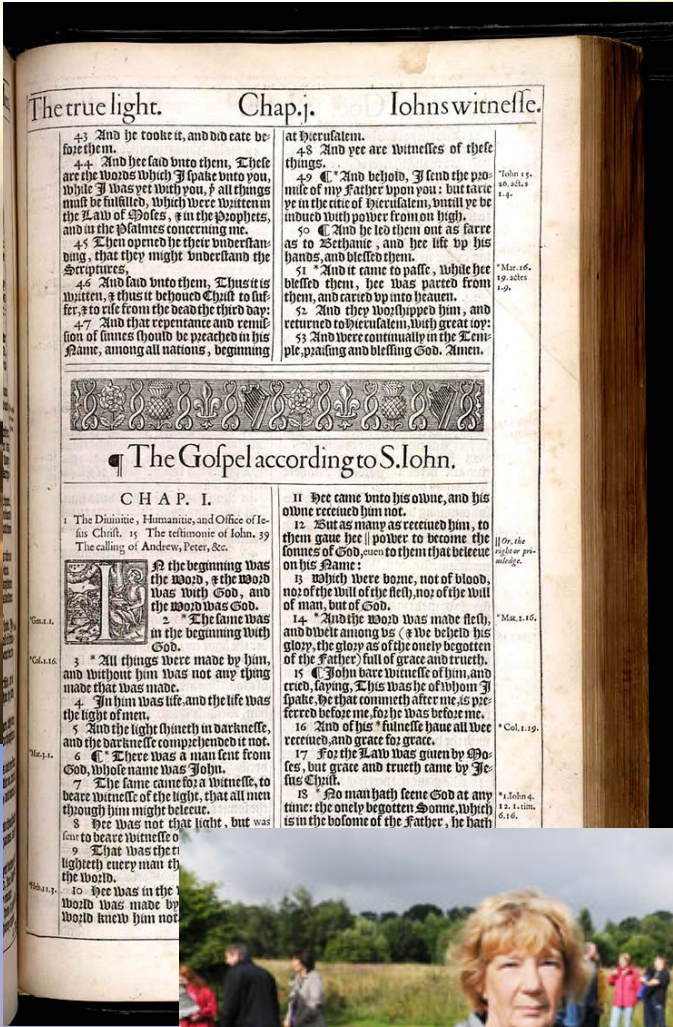
Localism one district's perspective

Gill Cameron-Waller
East Sussex Rural Forum
March 2011



Creative confusion..?!





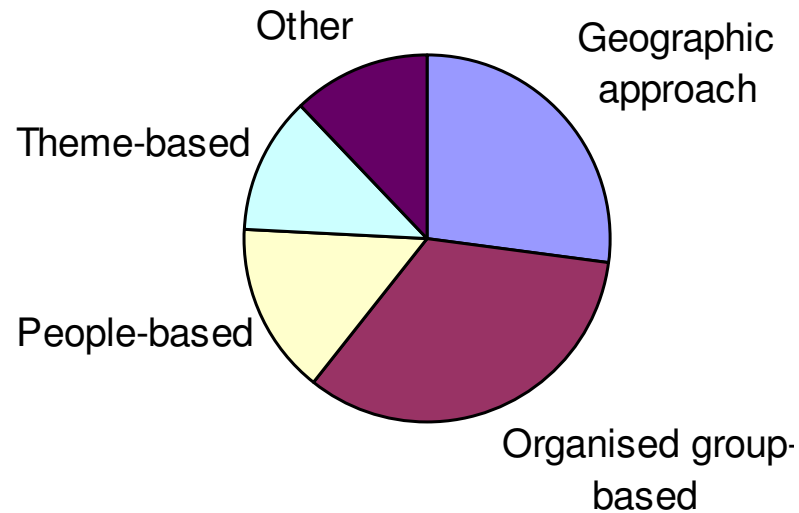
Here be dragons...?

- No-one knows for sure
- Work it out **together**
- Already do some things well v locally
- Keep the baby, ditch the bathwater
- Working **with partners, shared** services...
- **Talk** to each other & **listen...**

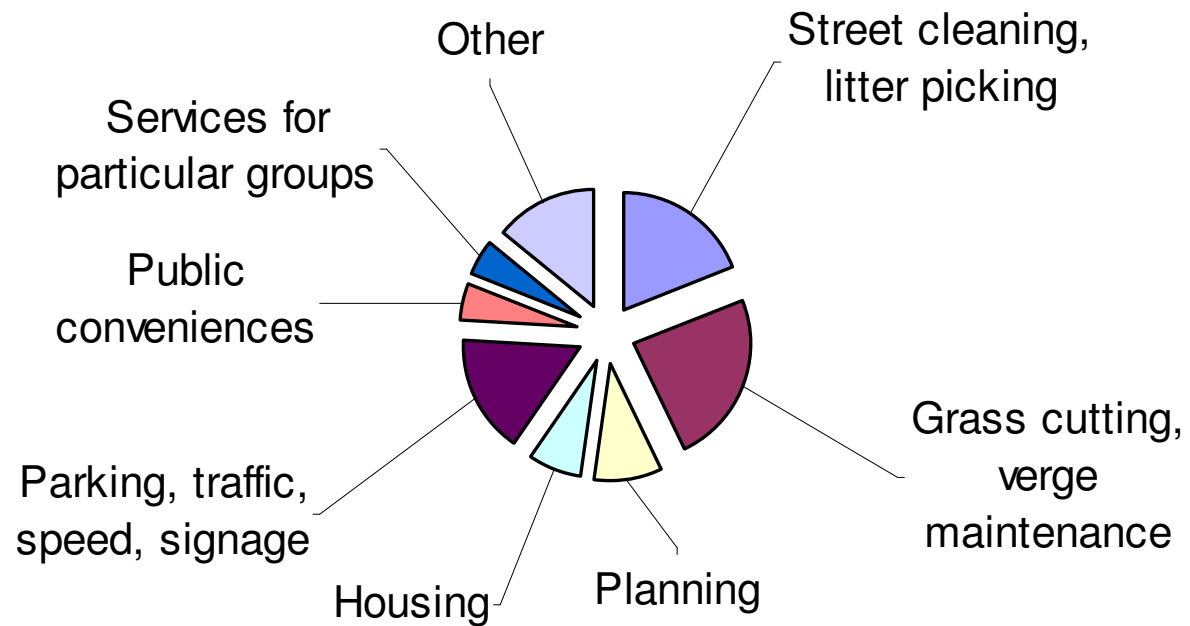
Seeking views...

Wealden Parish Conference November 2010

What is your definition of localism?



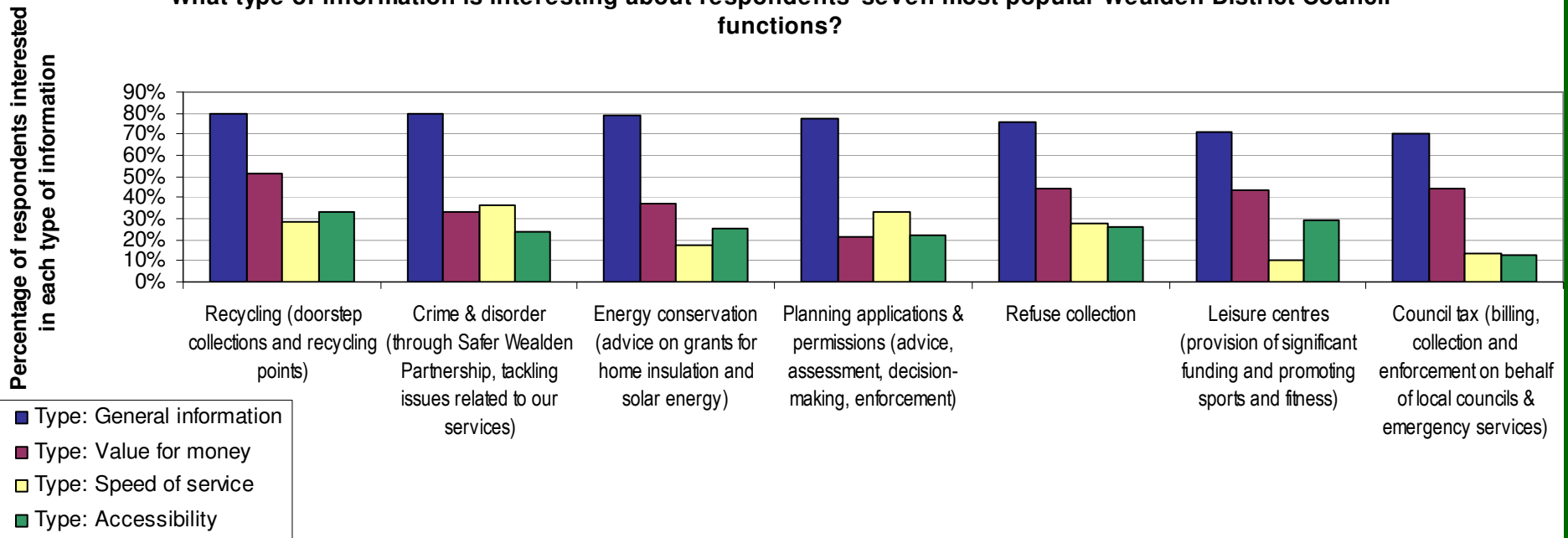
Suggestions for very local service delivery



Wealden Panel - Top 7 areas of interest

Recycling Crime & Disorder Energy conservation
 Planning Refuse collection Leisure Centres Council Tax

What type of information is interesting about respondents' seven most popular Wealden District Council functions?



January 2011

- Joint workshop – senior politicians & managers
- Integrating Localism & Transformation Programme
- What does it mean for ‘us’? Who is ‘us’?
- Began inward-looking
- Shifted to outward-looking
- Decision: involve parishes as early as possible
- Concern about unrealistic expectations
- Action: ask for ideas, get agreement to bring conference forward to the autumn

February 2011 - workshop Part 2

What could be done very locally to good effect?

Key points

- Not starting from scratch
- Art of the possible
- Don't have all the answers – need pilots
- Challenge of change
- Localism is not anarchy
- Thinking hard about our role as a Council

March 2011...

- Little response so far from parishes 9 / 42
- Yes to earlier conference
- Welcome opportunity to discuss eg assets of community value, referenda...
- What is the appetite? Is there appetite?
- Doesn't have to be parishes – looking to involve others – Local Strategic Partnership?
- Taking opportunities to raise awareness, encourage people to get involved...

Generating ideas....

- Sustainable Community Strategy themes
- Your village / parish plan...
- Town master plan...
- None of the above...

WDC - three aims

- enhancing our surroundings
- maintaining the quality of life
- ensuring value for money

Localism in enhancing our surroundings

- plan for a **sustainable environment** for the future
- committed to the **Local Enterprise Partnership**
- **encourage social housing** for rent and sale
- lobby for **high speed broadband** across the District
- encourage the production of **renewable energy**
- promote and encourage **sustainable tourism**
- strengthen the **transport infrastructure** in the District

Testing the ideas out in practice....

- Pilots – realistic, robust, cost?
- Collaborative projects – not just parishes
- Range – not just hot potatoes!
- Coherence - practicality
- ?Fit with other plans and visions
- Work up proposals together
- Hope to launch in time for parish conference

Want to get involved?

Share your ideas...

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Thank you!

