



# Community Ownership in Urban Areas

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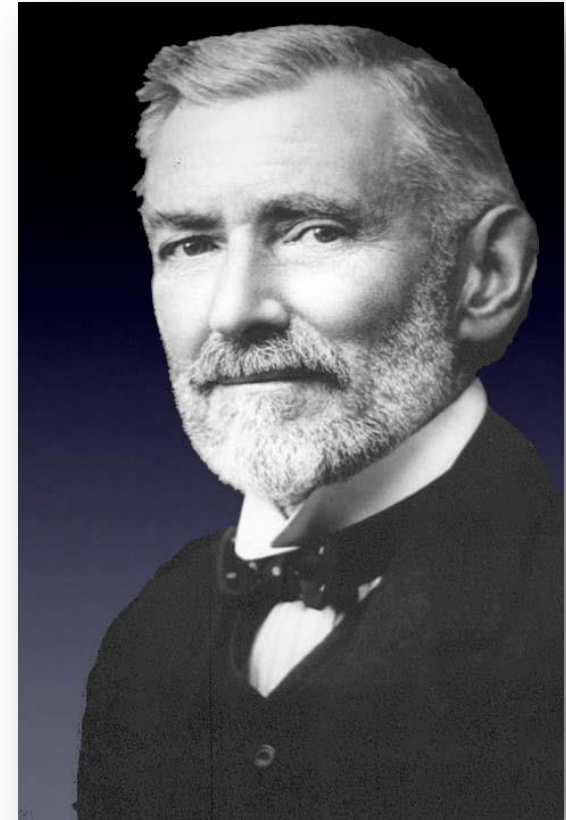
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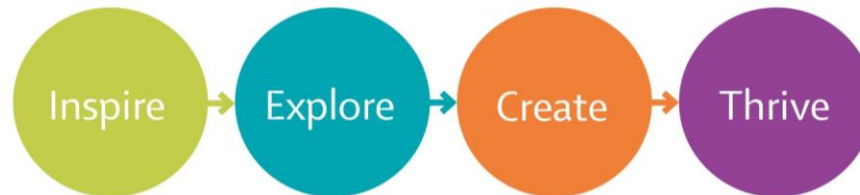
# History

- Founded in 1919
- Concern for rural livelihoods in Ireland
- Proactive approach to community ownership
- 243 co-operative creameries in just 4 years
- Importance of 'community'
- Plunkett Foundation to take forward this approach across the world



# Plunkett Foundation today

- Continue Sir Horace's vision
- Particular aim to alleviate poverty, social exclusion and isolation
- Best known for shops and pubs
- Well known for local food role
- Based in Woodstock, Oxfordshire
- 14 staff, inc. 2 based in Scotland
- Network of advisers and mentors
- Approach:



# Guiding Principles of Community Ownership

- **Businesses** which trade primarily for community benefit
- They are democratically owned by **members** of their community.
- All members have **equal** say in how the business is run, regardless of level of their investment.
- The interests of the business are linked into **community control**

# Community Ownership as a response to Market Failure

# **Community Ownership as a response to Market Demand**

# Our Urban Shop



- 2 year pilot
- Funded by Esmee Fairbairn
- Aiming to improve access to healthy affordable food and stimulate community cohesion
- 100 communities to be inspired
- 20 communities to take action
- 10 communities to receive £5k of business support
- 6 communities to receive up to £60k of investment

# Urban Community Shops



- Should be a new or separate enterprise
- Should be owned and operated by the community
- Should be seeking to maximise community participation and involvement
- Should be aiming to address local issues and challenges
- Should not be competing with other retailers
- Should be aiming to retain money locally
- Should be aiming to be financially sustainable





# Urban Food Routes

- Funded by GLA and Seeds of Change
- Aims to make small food businesses sustainable
- Aims to generate social benefits
- Aims to increase community involvement
- Awarded support and funding to 32 'community businesses'
  - £2,000-8,000
  - Business planning, marketing, financial management, legal and governance

# Other enterprises

- Sole share – community supported fishery
- Sutton Community Farm – growing space
- Well kneaded – pizza van
- Wildes Cheese – London dairy
- Food Cycles Community Café – recycled food



# How Plunkett can help

- Solving local problems with enterprise
- Focus on poverty, exclusion, isolation
- Expertise on ‘community’ and ‘ownership’
  - Legal structures, membership, business planning
- Community Shares
- Rural and Urban blur



# Like what we do?

Why not consider joining us and helping us to grow the sector?

- Membership for an individual costs £50
- Membership for an organisation starts from £75



# Rural Success

- 316 community shops and increasing
- Sustainable form of business with high survival rate
- Like for like Sales growth in shops – 2.9% growth
- Improve access to essential services
- Boost the local economy via supply chain
- Encourage wide scale participation – age, income, ability
- Address social isolation and loneliness
- Become wider community hubs
- Create jobs, volunteer and training opportunities