

IoW Cluster Development Meetings

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES OF CLUSTERS

North

1 town, several villages
Ecumenical contacts
Good church buildings
Variety of worship
Fresh expressions of church
Lots of clergy-led services
On coast
Lots of elderly residents
Tourism
Nursing homes

East

Lots of elderly
Uncertainty about future
Holiday-makers
Hotels
Nursing homes
Good transport
Deprivation, homelessness, alcohol issues
Church school
Second homes
Access to mainland

South

Not much happening re. cluster
Poor transport links
Hope for a fresh-expression
Lots of lay-led services
Social disadvantage, child poverty
Several 'holy places'
Tourism
Church + other schools
Many elderly
25 pubs

West

Widely-spaced communities
Poor transport links
Many separate villages
No secondary schools
Many care homes
ecumenical links significant
Farming
Tourism, yachting
Second homes

Medina

Many schools

IoW College

IoW gateway – Cowes

County hub

Festivals

Industry – 2 major employers

Commerce

Cowes yachting community

Cowes week

Hospice

Hospital

Castle

Osborne House

Low income areas

One-parent families

Huge diversity in every category

Possible future directions

Contact with more young people

Access to expertise

Pooling of resources/people skills

Training as needed

Schools work

Café church

Music group for young people

Healthy eating project

Courses on prayer

Respite for dementia carers

Events for social outreach

Enhancing disabled access

Providing transport

Developing church choirs

Focussed mission initiatives

School pastors

Obstacles

Localism

Expectations – especially about ‘staying as we are’

‘Doing Sunday’ every week

Reality gap with rest of life/world

Transport links

Need to keep everything going at same time as doing new things or trying to change

Lack of time, energy

Parish-focussed outlook

Lack of skills leading to lack of confidence

Geographical issues

Village/parish loyalties

Travel distances

Regulations

Pressures on volunteers

What would help?

Prayer

Cluster admin base

Better communications

A common theme for development – to focus use of energy

Cluster co-ordination/co-ordinator

Releasing people’s skills

Skills directory

On-line deanery ‘office’ – website access to info/ resource

Encouragement/enthusiasm

Shared hardware

Effective structure for ensuring/promoting relationships

Specific invitations to activities and events

Sense of urgency and need to progress

Roles for lay co-ordinators of parish life

Being honest about what is achievable

Marketing

Training

Specialist advice

Updates calendar of events

A 'focus' for the Island – place or programme

Sense of fun