

Kerry Hughes and Mick Lanaghan

27.1.17 and 27.1.19

Minutes	
	<i>Start with feelings about this place growing up here?</i>
1.00	Kerry – have always loved Stainforth. A really good community. Everybody pulls together. In adulthood your eyes are more open. It's a deprived area where there's no hope. If have no ambition then will be stuck in this village for rest of your life. Under the poverty line. There's nothing round here. Streets full of rubbish. Kids on street corners – there's a youth centre but it's getting cut. Sad state we're living in. Could see the industries going, one by one. When I was younger was a sewing factory, a chicken factory. Now there's nothing.
2.00	The unemployment has gone sky high, need the food bank. All there is in the village is takeaways. Hardly any shops, only got an Asda. Then a florist and fruit shop. Nothing here anymore. I've got 3 boys and I don't want to be round here, by the time they grow up. When there's no hope, there's nothing going on round here, then kids go out on the streets and get into wrong things, leads to crime. It's just a mess.
3.15	<i>You weren't as aware of that as a kid?</i> No. I wasn't. <i>Why do you think that was?</i>
4.30	It's got worse, by far, since I was about 15, so about 15 years ago. Because the industries, and pubs have gone. Working men used to come and have a couple on a Friday afternoon and families would be out during the weekend. We've only got one pub. There is community when something happens. Everybody wants their fences 6 foot high nowadays. You don't know your neighbours. It's a sorry state.
5.00	<i>How do you feel about your own kids growing up?</i> I don't want them to grow up round here. I love this village but there's no hope. I want my boys to have good jobs. But where are they going to get good jobs round here? There's nothing round here for them. I've seen that with many people my age going into prison as well. They've got into crime. Drug-wise, you can't go into a pub without people taking stuff. It's a big problem at the minute and that's where most people make their money from. Selling to people in pubs. I've seen that many times. Taking coke. It's cheaper than buying drinks for the night. It's awful to see. It's the biggest problem in this village.
6.15	My boys see drug dealers dealing on the streets. I don't want them to think that's normal. But that's the only way people can earn money. Mick – we were foreseeing it 30 years ago. Kerry – there's no industry. The pit is finally shut and they've put a cap on it. I've seen lads coming out of there, who (now) work here, there and everywhere.
10.00	Mick – a local lad, a well-known wrong 'un – someone in the village gave him a thick ear but he would have gone down the pit. Kerry – it's why I get emotional. When we first opened food bank we had a lot of drug users. People say we're feeding druggies, but there's nothing out there, they might have kids at home, and if there had been industry those lads would have been in the pit.
11.00	Mick - they would have also grown up on that premise that you never fetch a bobby to our door. That's how the social umbrella worked.

Track Two	Kerry – that’s what’s missing now. <i>Tell me about the food bank.</i>
1.30	Kerry – There was a food bank in Thorne and there’s a weekend in October and all different artists go round to different locations and ask people to bring a bag of food to the event. They did that at The Broadway for the food bank at Thorne. I went to Thorne and dropped the stuff off with them. Stainforth was desperately in need. How can people in Stainforth afford to get a bus to Thorne? So I talked to them at Thorne about it and heard someone at Doncaster Council was setting one up, who had premises sorted and I started helping out with that. Got a facebook page. I thought the community needed to be involved.
3.00	This time last year we had over 40 volunteers. We didn’t have to ask for any money from anybody, to get any food. We just got inundated. <i>How did they know about it?</i>
4.30	I put it on facebook. A lot of help from local churches. It’s been nationwide. Bob Crow’s cousin has been fantastic. Boatload of toys at Christmas. Mick – Dave is moving up here because the community here is like the East London community that he was brought up in. <i>That’s why I’m here!</i>
5.30	Kerry – our community is not dead because we’ve still got that community. If we need something they pull together. But in the sense of deprivation it’s dead. Mick – you can’t fault this community. Kerry – but what makes me scared is that, is that just the older generation? Because I feel it’s my generation that has got lost.
7.00	Mick – but there was a light. When we found out Sandra had got cancer we sat down as a family and thought about what to do. Was there something positive to look at, so we decided to hold a charity thing for ovarian cancer. This community showed itself. The young people. We were holding a 70s disco. We had an idea about pushing a bus but they wouldn’t police it for us, but at another charity do this lad said he was traffic management and he would do it.
8.15	Loads of people came down – the lads pushed it halfway through village and the lasses finished it off. When we got to Central there was a bouncy castle and Les Moore (I used to wash his back in the pit showers) said to me that he’d do a sponsored back wax. He said he had a high pain threshold! The lasses from the local beauty parlour put a bed on the stage and got the wax ready. It was brilliant.
9.00	Kerry – again, it’s always when something happens. Which is what a community does isn’t it. It’s a good community for that, but I haven’t seen any hope for the future, for my boys. There are over 20 people attending the food bank each week. It’s up on Field Road. Every Friday morning. 10.30 – 1.00.
10.00	<i>It’s all self-generating, you don’t get any funding?</i>
11.00	It’s independent. They’ve had bits of funding that they’ve had to apply for. The community has been brilliant with that, holding events. We used to have a 3 bag rule, where they could come up to 3 times, but now we can’t do that to people, because if they’re going onto Universal Credit they’ve got to wait 8 weeks for a decision. From Christmas there’s a new benefit cap – if you’ve got more than 3 kids they take your Housing Benefit off you. We’ve been getting people in who are wanting jobs but there’s just nothing there. Or people who are working, the working poor, for sometimes less than minimum wage. Mick –
12.30	my son hasn’t been paid minimum wage yet. If he complains about it he’ll lose his job.

14.15	A no-win situation. Carl is 30. He was a strike baby. Kerry – it's hard for people to get places to get work. Back in the day you could get a job in this village just like that, you can't do that now. I can't show my boys that you can live at home and have a job. I've got to show my boys that you've got to go to University. They've got to take student loans out. It's a good job we've got fantastic volunteers – while we've still got a library there. Our kids can't better themselves and they're stuck in deprivation. An endless rat race.
Track Three 27.1.19	Mick – You go to any South Yorkshire area that was reliant on steelworks and mines and every area is the same. Kerry – on the TV – people thinks that it's the truth. You get a stigma because people think they will end up on the benefits show. People don't see beyond it.
3.25	Mick – you're all one step away from losing your house. Tomorrow you can be in an entirely different situation. Programme last night – an academic view of leftyism. When we were kids we were educated in politics, at work, in pubs and clubs. You might not think you were taking it in, but you were. That life University is gone now. We are never invited into a school to talk about things like that. We did show schoolkids the community banner. I stood in front of one school and asked a lad if he knew what it was like to be in a trade union.
6.15	We did get all the Stainy kids out on strike – anecdote.
9.05	Kerry – there was a lad mid-30s, on drugs, he came to the food bank a few times with his kids, had depression, but a very clever lad. I tried to get him down to the Job Shop but there's no hope for him. It's so sad. If pit was open, or had industry, he'd have got himself a good job and got higher in that job. In the trap of drugs. He revolves around the drugs. He does odd jobs around Stainforth, he doesn't steal, he works for the drugs. We get all sorts of stories in the food bank. We can't give them hope. Even the Job Centre hasn't been for the year we've been open.
10.00	Kerry – husband is an installation shop fitter. He set up his own company. I couldn't afford the child care so I had to stay at home. He was on zero hours contract. But his own company is going good. But all tools were nicked out of his van. He wasn't insured because of the cost. People are desperate. Just up the road from where I live, people are dealing drugs. My boys see it. Our Connor
12.30	was staring at this man, who was under the influence of drugs so I told him that was what happens when you take drugs. I don't want my kids to think that's right. Why should we have to move away from a village I love, but I can't do anything else.
14.30	Mick – lot of young people have left for those reasons. There are a lot of southern accents here now. Kerry – you don't know your neighbour like you used to know your neighbour. We got made homeless, me and Jamie, when I was having my third child and I had to come and live with my mum and dad, because our house was privately rented, and he left us two months with no heating, so for one of the months we didn't pay the rent, because we had to live here and I had to pay the plumber to do the heating. The following August he took us to court and got us out. But when we lived here, for 6 months, I had to live in the box bedroom with two kids and heavily pregnant. We had to fight for the house we got because there were no houses round here, no social housing. I got help from the Children's Centre, from their support workers, who went to Doncaster Council, told them the situation, that I wanted to stay in the
16.00	
17.00	

18.00	area, and that's why I got that house, but if we didn't fight for the house we'd have been put the other side of Donny. They are moving people here, there and everywhere but move other people in. That's wrong, when you've got a close-knit community. It's just breaking that up.
19.00	Mick – there's a friend of mine, I've known her since schooldays and she's disabled, she needs a walker. The Council did the same, they've moved her into a bungalow at Conisbrough. She knows nobody, all her family and friends are at Thorne. It's wrong. Kerry – they're not going to put money into social housing here. Us people at the bottom get the damage from that.