chewing the fat 6/02

1. Council Budget Deficit

Conclusion

The council is facing a significant budget deficit, and local people need to take initiative for change as government support is limited.

Discussion Points

1. [Dan] : Local authorities are struggling financially, prioritizing social issues over business.
   - Council running a £30 million deficit, previously £60 million.
2. [Dan] : Change must come from local people, not the government.
3. [Dan] : Council's poor communication exacerbates issues.
   - Example of cycle lanes budget misunderstanding.

2. Community and Business Initiatives

Conclusion

While past efforts are respected, there is a need for new ideas and initiatives to improve BCP for businesses and residents.

Discussion Points

1. [Dan] : There is respect for past community efforts, but new opportunities and ideas are needed.
2. [Dan] : BCP should be improved for business and living standards.

3. Introductions and Backgrounds of Participants

Conclusion

The group consists of diverse professionals committed to improving the local area.

Discussion Points

1. [Speaker 3] : Participants are passionate about the local area and bring diverse experiences.
   - Participants include fintech entrepreneurs, HR professionals, tech founders, and marketing experts.

4. Local Initiatives and Entrepreneurship

Conclusion

Bournemouth has potential for growth and revitalization, supported by a strong culture of entrepreneurship.

Discussion Points

1. [Speaker 4] : Bournemouth has potential for growth and revitalization.
   - The Ivy's launch was the second most successful after Covent Garden.
   - Bournemouth might be at the bottom, but the only way is up.
2. [Speaker 14] : Bournemouth has a strong culture of entrepreneurship and small businesses.
   - There are a lot of entrepreneurs and small businesses in the UK compared to Singapore.

5. Personal and Professional Journeys

Conclusion

Personal and professional journeys often lead to unexpected opportunities and growth, despite challenges.

Discussion Points

1. [Speaker 10] : Personal experiences can lead to unexpected opportunities and growth.
   - Speaker 10's podcast 'Success on the South Coast' was born out of returning to his hometown and discovering positive stories.
   - Speaker 12's spiritual journey led to new insights and the idea of leading a second coming.

2. [Speaker 4] : Challenges in trading and hospitality can lead to new ventures and learning opportunities.
   - Speaker 4 experienced scams in trading but aims to help others trade safely.
   - Speaker 4 is returning to hospitality by buying a hotel in Bournemouth.

6. Networking and Community Building

Conclusion

Networking is crucial for building professional relationships and community involvement.

Discussion Points

1. [Speaker 14] : Networking can lead to long-lasting professional relationships and community involvement.
   - Speaker 14's first networking event in Bournemouth led to lifelong friendships and business involvement.

7. Small Business Culture and Networking

Conclusion

The UK has a more supportive small business culture, and there is a desire to replicate successful community models like the Foundry in other areas.

Discussion Points

1. [Speaker 14] : Small business culture in the UK is more open and supportive compared to places like Singapore.
   - In Singapore, businesses often have agendas at networking events, unlike the UK where people help each other without expecting anything in return.
2. [Speaker 4] : The Foundry is a great example of a supportive business community.
3. [Dan] : The goal is to replicate the Foundry's success across three towns.

8. Personal and Professional Backgrounds

Conclusion

Sharing backgrounds fosters connections and understanding among participants.

Discussion Points

1. [Speaker 3] : Sharing personal and professional backgrounds helps build connections.
   - Various speakers shared their backgrounds, including experiences in sales, recruitment, and crypto.

9. Crypto and Blockchain Technology

Conclusion

The focus should be on the technology behind crypto rather than just trading.

Discussion Points

1. [Speaker 4] : Trading crypto is different from investing, and the technology behind it is what's interesting.
   - Blockchain can streamline services and prevent fraud.

10. Community and Networking in Bournemouth and Christchurch

Conclusion

Building a strong local network and supporting local initiatives are key to regional growth.

Next Steps

[ ] Involve local government and institutions in discussions to improve productivity and support for businesses.

Discussion Points

1. [Dan] : A strong local network is crucial for growth.
2. [Dan] : Local initiatives can transform the region.

11. Challenges and Opportunities in BCP (Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole)

Conclusion

BCP needs to address challenges like limited opportunities and cultural diversity, with proactive leadership from local authorities.

Next Steps

[ ] Engage with local authorities and institutions to align with regional goals.

Discussion Points

1. [Dan] : BCP has natural beauty and thriving businesses but faces challenges like limited opportunities for young people and a lack of cultural diversity.
2. [Dan] : Proactive leadership from local authorities is needed.

12. Community Engagement and Media Influence

Conclusion

There is a need to shift focus from traditional media to personal networks and positive storytelling to improve community engagement.

Discussion Points

1. [Dan] : Traditional media engagement is declining, and personal networks should be utilized for better communication.
   - Bournemouth Writing Festival's success without a large budget.
2. [Speaker 8] : Media outlets lack integrity and focus on negativity.
3. [Speaker 12] : The Echo's negative portrayal affects public perception.
4. [Speaker 11] : Positive community stories should be shared to counteract negative media.

13. Local Business Ecosystem and Economic Development

Conclusion

Focusing on local businesses and community assets can drive economic development and community well-being.

Discussion Points

1. [Speaker 9] : Keeping business local is crucial for economic success.
2. [Speaker 9] : There should be a focus on specific industries like digital and hospitality to boost the local economy.
3. [Dan] : Community assets like the Dolphin Center should be utilized for economic and social benefits.

14. Addressing Negative Perceptions and Building Trust

Conclusion

Building trust and addressing negative perceptions are essential for community cohesion and progress.

Discussion Points

1. [Speaker 12] : Negative perceptions in media and community groups need to be addressed.
2. [Speaker 8] : Building a connected ecosystem of trust can counteract negative influences.

15. Community Engagement and Business Collaboration

Conclusion

A unified approach and empowering individuals are key to successful community engagement and collaboration.

Next Steps

[ ] Create a Facebook group to spread the word and engage the general public.
[ ] Organize a think tank event at Bournemouth University to foster collaboration. –
[Speaker 12]

Discussion Points

1. [Speaker 12] : Empowering people to think for themselves is crucial for community engagement.
   - Example of epistemology and how people take information from social media as fact.
2. [Speaker 9] : Collaboration between different sectors is essential for growth.
3. [Speaker 9] : Creating a cohesive voice is necessary for effective collaboration with the council.
   - Experience of working with the council for six years.

16. Urban Development and Innovation

Conclusion

Clear messaging and a grassroots approach are essential for successful urban development.

Next Steps

[ ] Develop a manifesto to ensure consistent messaging.

[ ] Organize a social event on 13th March to engage the community. – *[Dan]* 13th of March

Discussion Points

1. [Dan] : Simple and tangible messaging is crucial for achieving urban development goals.
   - Example of Barcelona's transformation over 20 years.
2. [Speaker 10] : A grassroots movement and a manifesto are needed for consistent messaging.

> **AI Suggestion**
> AI has identified the following issues that were not concluded in the meeting or lack clear action items; please pay attention:
>
> 1. The council's budget deficit requires further discussion on how local businesses and communities can contribute to solutions. This unresolved issue is critical as it impacts financial stability and the ability to support local initiatives.
> 2. The ongoing financial struggles of the council pose a risk to local business and community initiatives, necessitating proactive local efforts. Addressing this risk is urgent to prevent negative impacts on economic growth and community projects.
> 3. Further discussion is needed on how to effectively replicate the Foundry's community model across three towns. This unresolved issue is important for expanding successful community engagement strategies and ensuring regional development.
> 4. Develop a clear plan for improving communication between the council and the public to prevent misunderstandings like the cycle lanes budget issue. This task needs clarification to enhance transparency and public trust.
> 5. Address the challenges in BCP, such as limited opportunities for young people and lack of cultural diversity, to ensure sustainable growth. This project risk requires immediate attention to foster an inclusive and thriving community environment.