

# **Participation, Partnerships, People, Place, Planet & Politics**

**Davy Jones**

**Yorkshire and the Humber -  
Champions of Participation Workshop  
30<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

**Davy Jones Consultancy**

# Reaching a defining moment

- 
- Sleepwalking to environmental catastrophe.....
  - UN: 200,000 people dying each year already
  - 85% see climate change as a “significant threat”
  - Economic crisis - consumerism threatens world
  - Massive demographic changes
  - Trust in traditional politics at rock-bottom
  - We need to be more “political”
  - We need more participation
  - This will happen around places
  - Public service partnerships need to organise it

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# Why citizen participation now ?

- Most centralised system of running local services in West
- Successive Governments responsible !
- But...it's bureaucratic and expensive !
- Increasing evidence that involving citizens works
- Increasing recognition of benefits
- Rise of consumer choice & explosion of information through internet
- Rise of social media / participation
- Individual & collective voice & choice



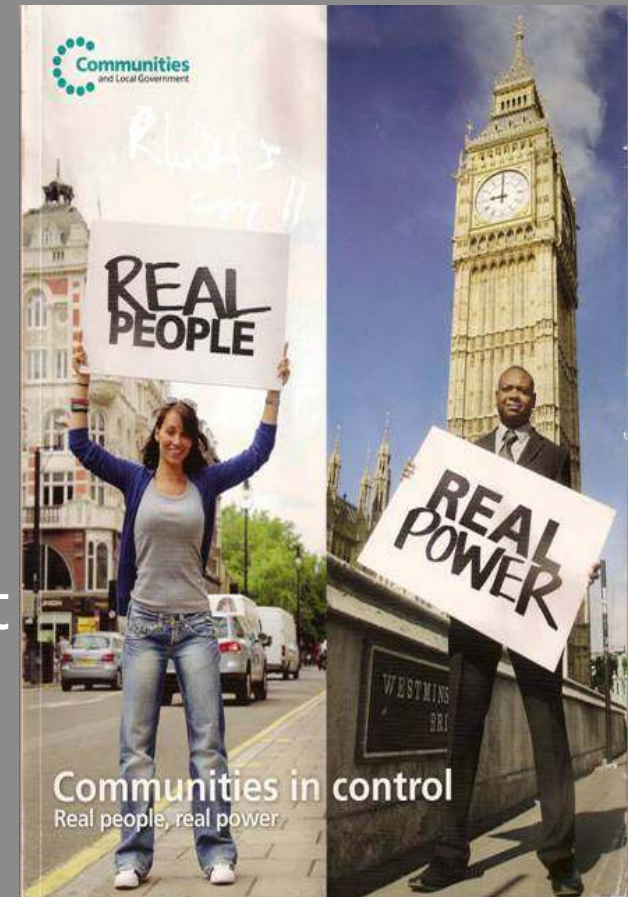
# Political consensus ?



- Localism, less inspection/Pis, Total Place & involving citizens - cross-party support
- Broad consensus across main parties
- “Big society demands mass engagement” (David Cameron)
- Conservative councils now majority of councils using PB
- Whatever Government emerges, these trends will not go away

# Key legal/policy drivers

- 2007 Local Government & Public Involvement in Health (LGPIH) Act - duty to inform, consult & involve
- Comprehensive Area Assessment proposals (2009), Place Survey & NIs
- Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction (LDEDC) Act (2009) – extended duty to involve, petitions, promotion of democracy

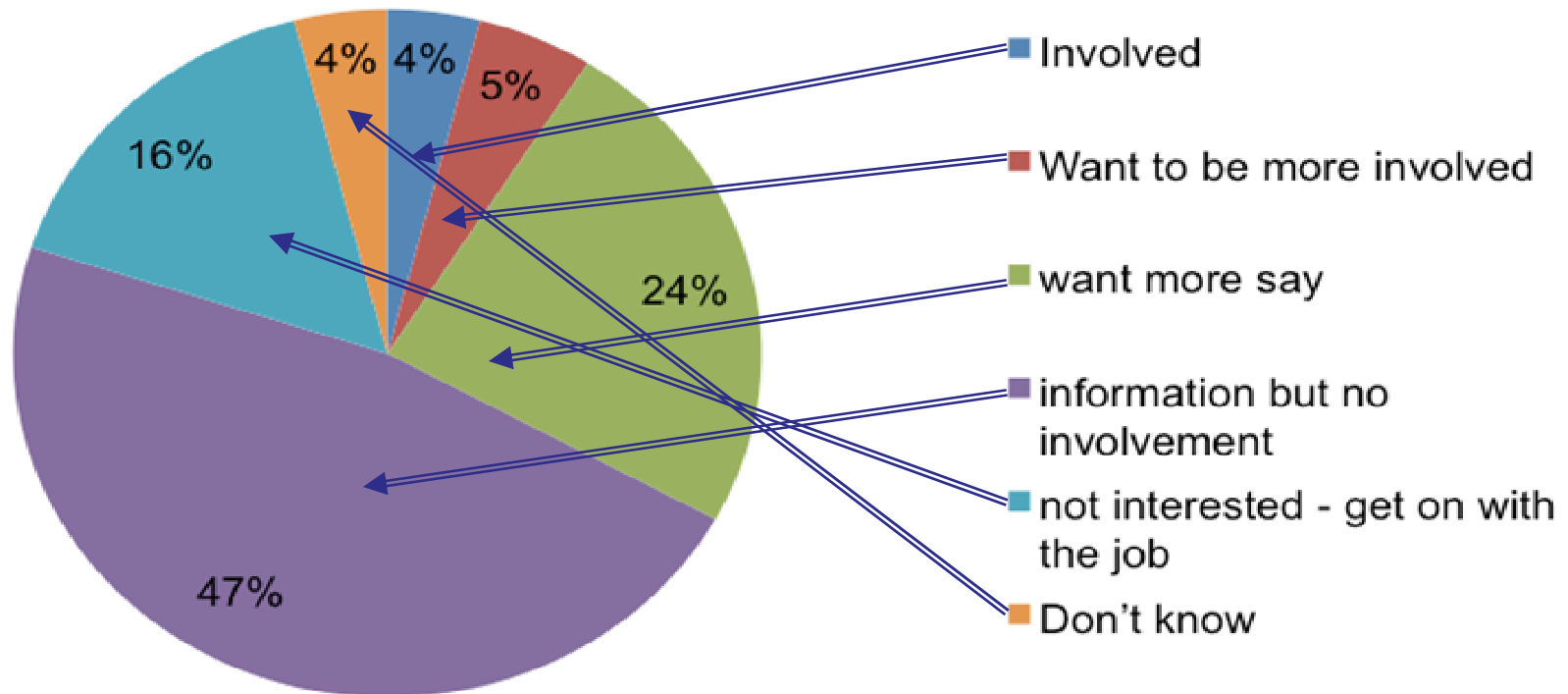


# Benefits of involvement

- **Better services**
- **Better outcomes**
- **Strengthens democracy**
- **Strengthens social capital**
- **Strengthens community cohesion**

# Do people want to be involved?

MORI August 2009



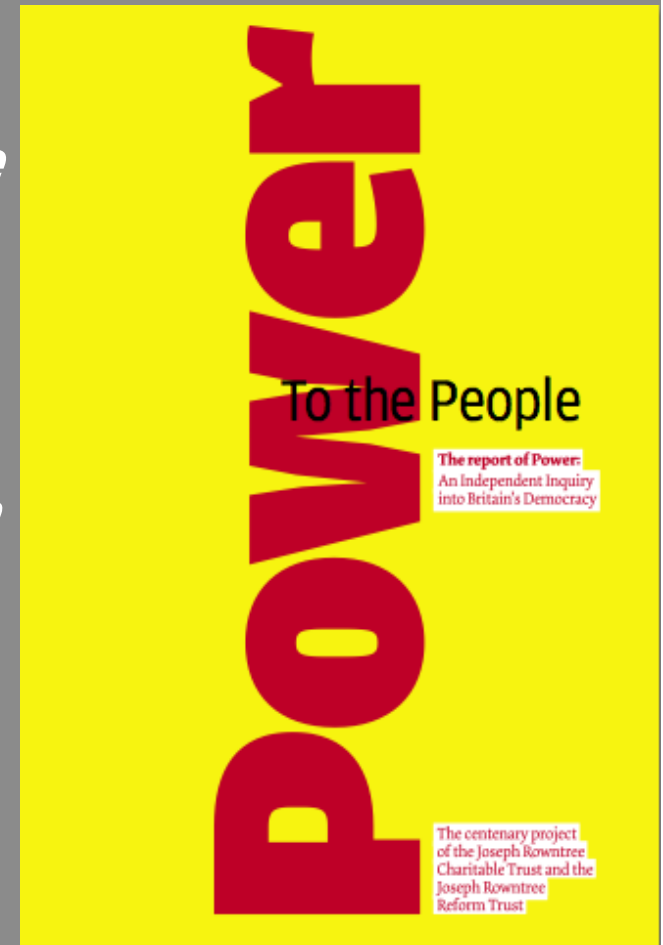
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# Why don't people get involved?

**Power Inquiry (2006):** *“citizens do not feel that the processes of formal democracy offer them enough influence over political decisions”*

*“Citizens often believe that the official mind is already made up, or that it will not listen to the results of participation exercises”* (Lowndes et al 2001)

Audit Commission 2005 survey of 'best practice' authorities found that three-quarters failed to link the results of consultation with decision-making processes



# 1 Better services – in an economic crisis

Empowerment is not a luxury – it can save money!



- Involvement leads to better targeting of services
- Co-ordinated engagement can save money

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## 2 Better outcomes

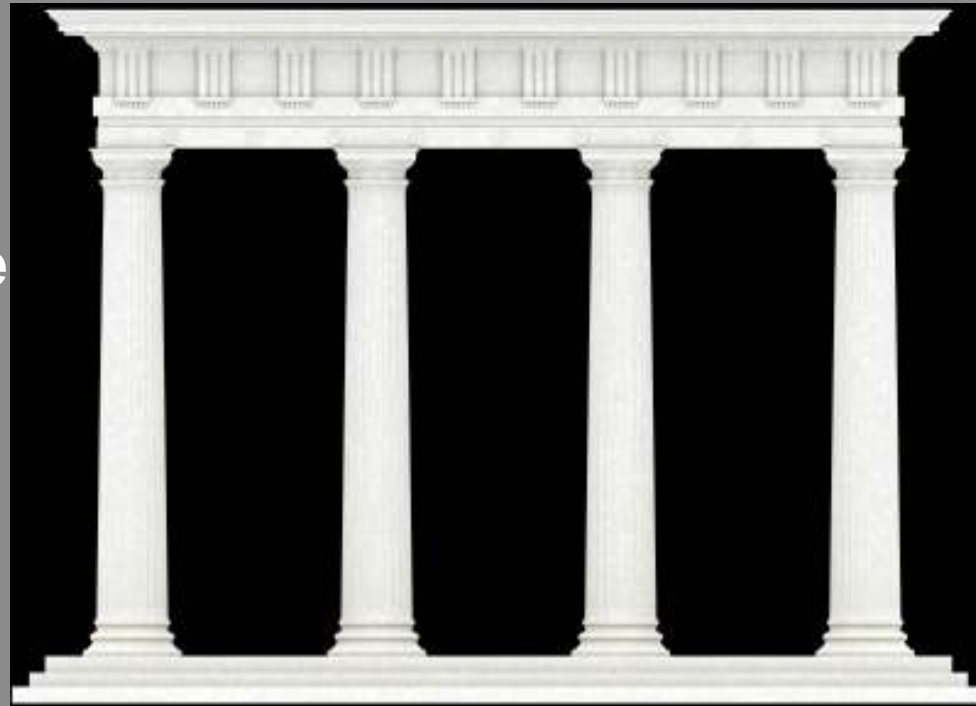
- Use of “local knowledge” to improve operational matters\*
- Correlation of satisfaction with local council and ability to influence local decisions
- Behaviour change programmes
- Correlation of happiness with ability to influence



\* Maguire & Truscott study of community involvement in LSPs, 2006

# 3 Strengthening democracy

Representative  
Democracy



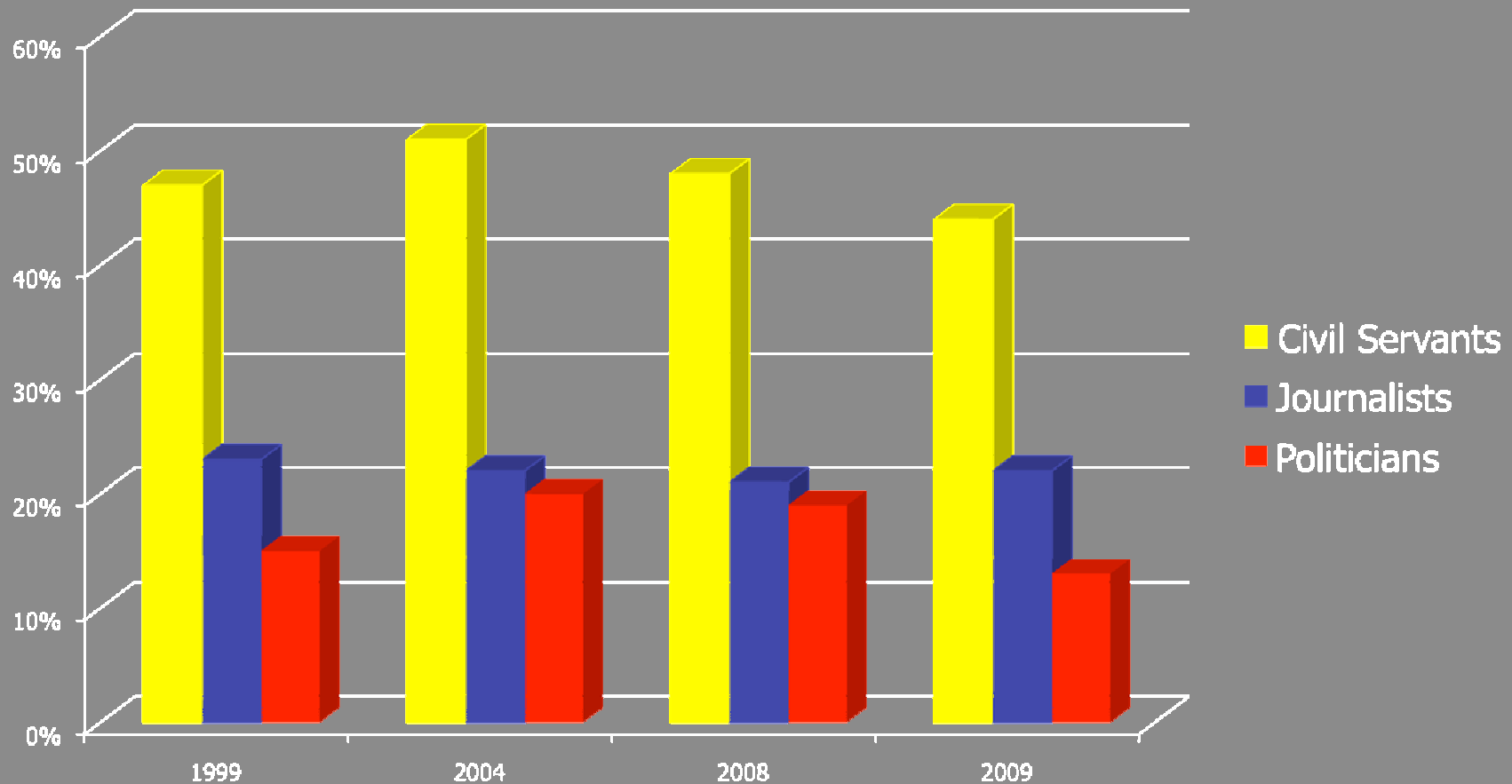
Participatory  
Democracy

- Participatory democracy can boost representative democracy
- Restore people's faith in process in discredited politics

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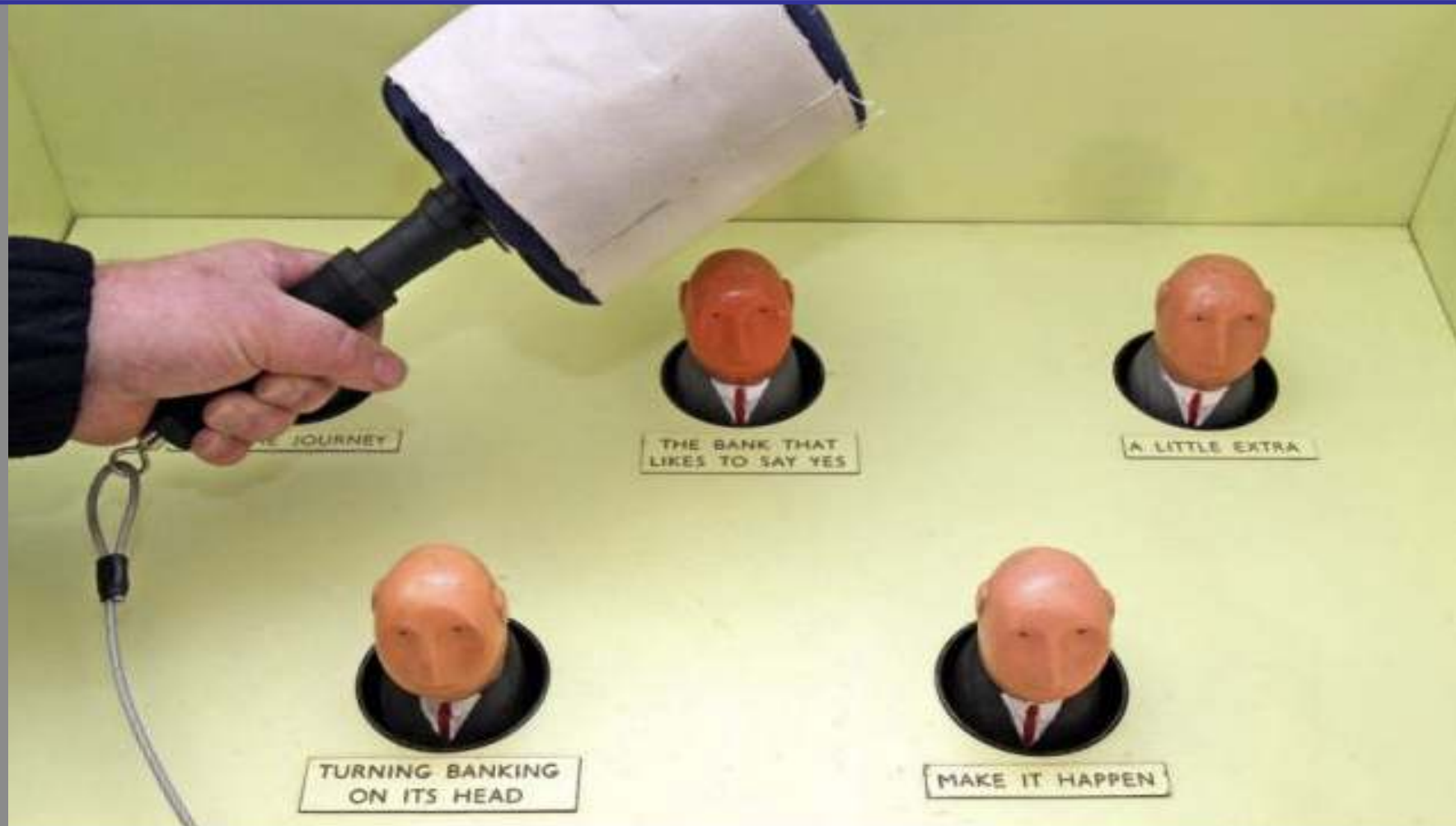
# Trust in Politicians

MORI Poll –Do you generally trust these groups to tell the truth or not?



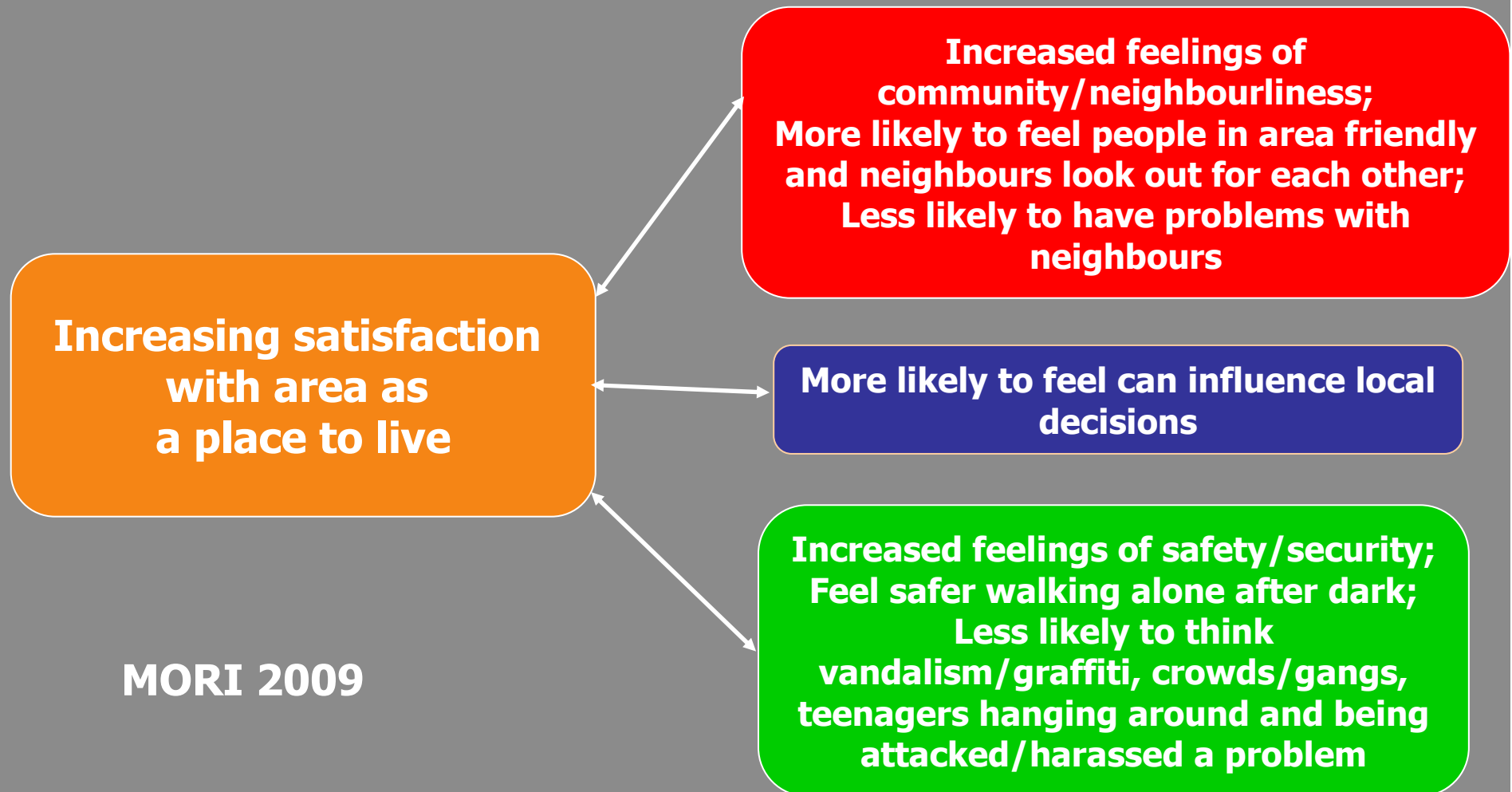
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# Trust in Bankers?



Whack A Banker at Southwold Pier

# 4 Strengthening social capital



MORI 2009

# 5 Strengthening community cohesion



- Divisions within and between communities
- Economic scarcity makes it worse
- Transparency in decision-making
- Blackburn with Darwen 2004 – pre-Total Place money tracker work re BNP

# Participation in Places

- LSPs / LAAs / CAA / One Place / Total Place
- **LAAs:** really local and agreed with citizens
- **CAA:** self-assessment agreed with citizens
- **Total Place:** citizens deciding how money spent
- **One Place:** real one, but not enough for accountability !
- **Staff:** critical role in citizen involvement

The screenshot shows the Oneplace website interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "Search for: Search this site" and a dropdown menu set to "All areas". Below the search bar, there are links for "Accessibility", "Glossary", and "Sitemap". The main navigation bar includes "Home", "About the site", "Search by area", "Search by organisation", and "Performance indicators". The content area features three main sections: "New to this site?" with a photo of a police officer, "Search by area" with a search box and a "Search" button, and "Search by organisation" with a search box and a "Search" button. A "Welcome to Oneplace" message is also visible on the right side.

# Other policy changes needed

- **Reform local finances for public services**
  - End ring-fencing of finances / grants
  - Local property/land tax to fund services
- **Reform local democracy**
  - Proportional representation
  - Two new tiers – small locality for citizen involvement & unitary councils for commissioning & delivery
  - Primacy of citizen decisions over private/3<sup>rd</sup> sector providers
- **Reform local accountability**
  - End Central Government dictats to local services
  - Directly elected LSP Mk 2 absorbing council executive, responsible for all local public services
  - Elected assembly & local fora as overview/scrutiny

# Contact

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