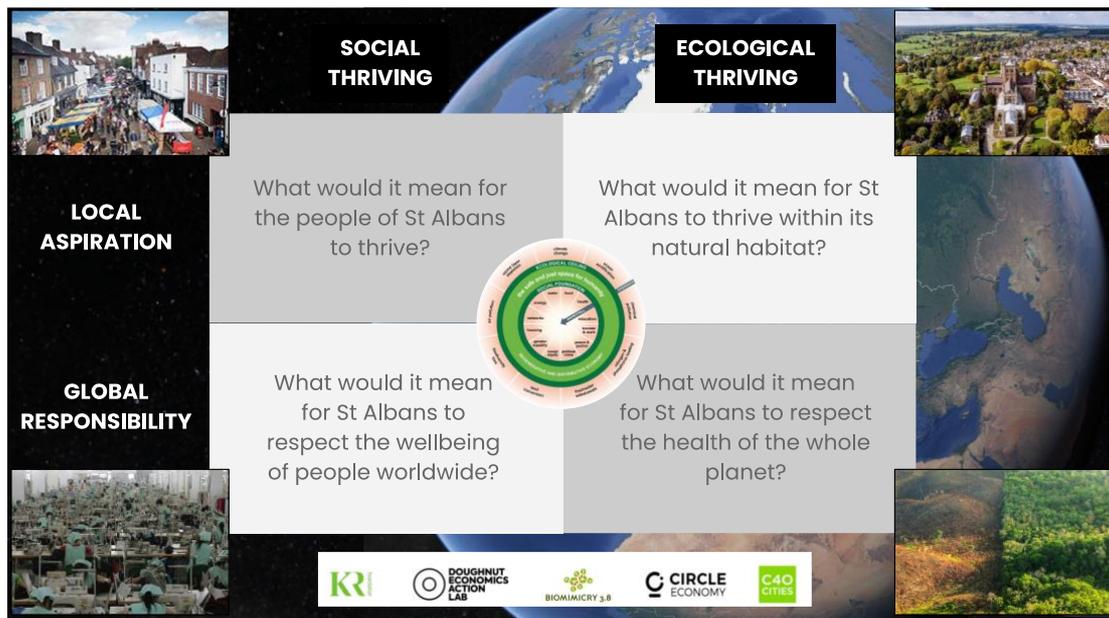


Doughnut Decision Making – including the environment and nature in local decision making - [Our Planet Our Future](#) event Monday 8th March 2021.

Our March event was a fascinating talk by Rob Shorter from Doughnut Economics Action Lab (DEAL) about what doughnut economics is and how this being used in local decision making. We then had discussions in groups on how we might use the ideas locally.

The doughnut economics model looks at the planetary boundaries we need to work within as well as the social priorities of the Sustainable Development Goals. The are between the two creates the doughnut.

Using this model we looked at the state of humanity and our planetary home, and then looked at how Rwanda, Brazil and the UK are performing; showing how all have challenges. This gave a national and international context before we started looking at the questions to consider at a local level.



With a local viewpoint, its addressing social and ecological thriving, considering both local aspiration and global responsibility as the image shows.

Rob then talked about how different countries, cities and regions have use the doughnut approach, such as

- Amsterdam, where they see it as their compass.
- Melbourne, where they looked at it through 4 lenses to create their approach.
- Costa Rica where they used it to create a regenerative approach.

There have been over 500 expressions of interest to use it worldwide, and it has been used successfully in the UK, including in Cambridge, Devon and Cornwall.

In using it, groups, local authorities and cities go through the following process:

- Purpose – create and socialise a shared vision
- Networks – convene, engage and mobilise a diverse local stakeholders
- Governance – share and enforce policy
- Ownership – own, access or operate local assets and services
- Finance – raise, influence and direct finance.

Rob's slides can be seen [here](#)

Following Rob's talk, we discussed the 4 questions relating to thriving, with the following thoughts:

1. What would it mean for the people of St Albans to thrive?

- Change traffic priorities on Holywell Hill and elsewhere to improve air pollution.
- In many ways we are already thriving - how do we share the wealth of our community across the borough?
- Can we level out the life expectancy of our poorest and richest areas?
- Knowing and measuring these facts (eg that gap has widened) gives more accountability
- Inclusion - everyone! Pulling others up.
- Community to decide what we want to measure - average incomes in wards/expectancy - how do we get the stats? Is that something SSA can get hold of?
- Fellowship and friendship rather than consumerism
- Recognise that we are citizens (with rights and responsibilities) and not just consumers (which is all about rights)

2. What would it mean for St Albans to thrive within its natural habitat?

- Improve the Ver.
- More tree planting
- Reduced verge mowing and the creation of meadows
- Try to limit developments of housing, e.g. Hertsmere, Ellenbrook.
- How can we get new build homes designed to use grey water more efficiently?
- Affinity Water to be bolder about water usage
- Help Wilder St Albans to thrive.
- Harpenden common / Verulamium / Batford Springs - has been a lot of change over recent years towards more rewilding
- Farming areas are monocultures - very little wildlife
- How to get big landowners to change their models? Isabella Tree / Brexit / new farming subsidies etc?

3. What would it mean for St Albans to respect the wellbeing of people worldwide?

- Education about the impact of companies that burn down the rainforest, condone slavery, etc to become more ethical consumers
- Buy local and not to excess, buy second hand too
- Demand more information about our consumer
- Change where you bank to an ethical one which does not invest in fossil fuels
- how can we stop investments in fossil fuels, etc - eg in pensions or investment?
- Think about tourism - balance of supporting economies of where you go vs carbon footprint of travel.

4. How can you make use of the doughnut approach in your life?

- Being more present in the community
- Being visible
- Having conversations

Some relevant and useful links:

- Doughnut Economics Action Lab (DEAL): <https://doughnuteconomics.org> - lots of great resources including case studies and videos explaining Doughnut Economics
- [Doughnut economics – responding to climate change in Cornwall County Council](#) (CCC), scroll down for video of event describing how Doughnut Economics is used in CCC.
- <https://www.citizenshift.info>
- [More on Civic Square](#)
- [Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan](#) especially section 6
- Forbes article [Economist redefine everything](#), including article by Kate Raworth.