The Age of No Retirement

Our vision is a world where our age does not define us, or the opportunities open to us

A world where products, services and places to work and live work for us throughout our whole life course.

"The dangers of separating people of different ages is death. Death because it will come sooner to you as you are in a place of decline; death intellectually as there is very little stimulation, and death socially because how many times can you have the same conversation with just other older people."

Professor Norma Raynes — Generation to Generation



Rebecca Levy, 2012







Snowflake

We are divided.

Stop dividing us by age.

Why building intergenerational housing and communities is not just nice to have but vital for our health and wellbeing



83% feel like they are not like everyone else in their age group

83% want to mix with people of different age groups and generations



85% of all ages don't have the time to do things that matter most to them



88% of all ages said that business & government should focus on needs, values and interests not age

83% want age-neutral and inclusive brands. Such brands are seen as more modern, relevant and trustworthy

10 PRINCIPLES OF INTERGENERATIONAL DESIGN

Safe + Secure / human connection / empowering / accessible / flexible / right effort / delightful / sustainable / clear + intuitive / free of time pressure

86% - 16%



Our survey showed that the biggest tensions across all ages:

Our finances + how we get around + our health care + where we live

Community

So why are we going so wrong in the homes and communities we are building?

Not Enough Choice





US = 6.1%

US = 6.1% VS U.K = "only" 0.6%

We want to be part of a real community

Not isolated by age



2020 Vision for Your Carefree Future

Target age: 55

Target age: 55 VS Typical age: 79

Rightsizing over downsizing

Looking for & learning from alternatives

Students + Older People

Linkages, Cambridge

Young mums & older women

Beekmos, Houten, Netherlands

NORGS

Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities, NYC

The Multi-generational Home The Olympic Village, London

The Barbican London

Older + younger = benefits to all ages

The Intergenerational Foundation.

How do we know this?

Our overall 'survival rate' increases by 50% if we have strong social relationships

The Blue Zones

It is not primarily our physical selves that limit us but rather our mindset about our physical limits.



So, what are we doing?

Our community in a box prototype

A critical friend

People vs investment

What makes a healthy town?

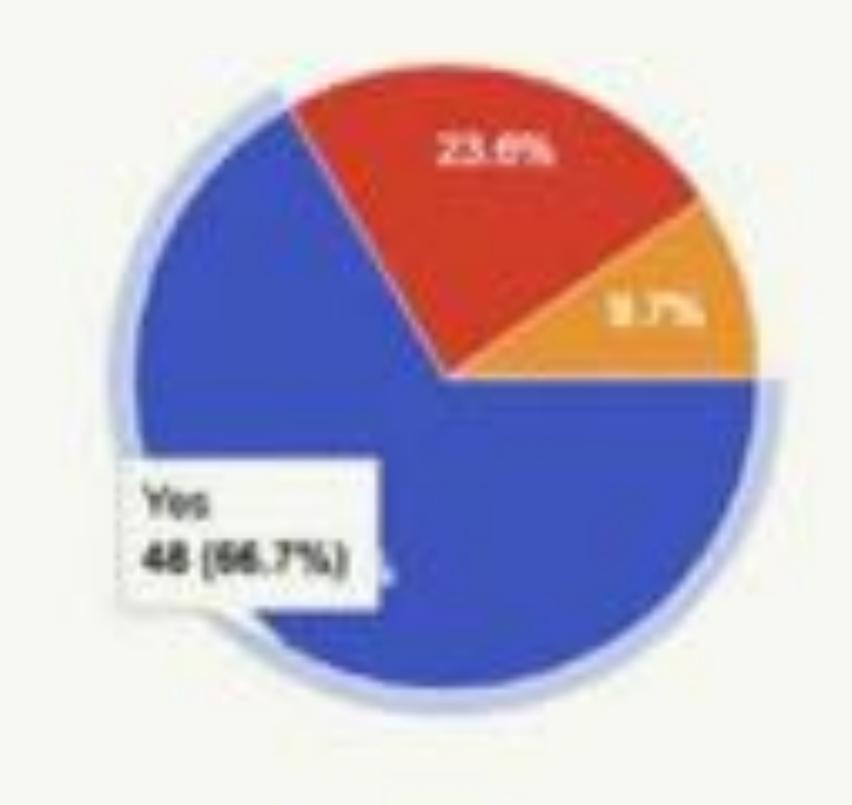
Totnes

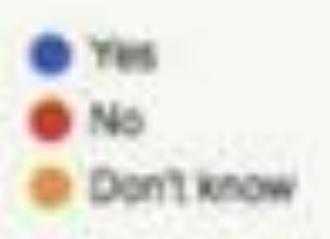
What is so special? It is about how we live here. It is about the environment, it is about human relationships, it is very relaxed and it is very open.

Totnes resident

If I was going to move, the things I would look for easy accessibility for the family, so I can see the kids and the grandkids.

Do you worry about losing your independence when you are older?





We looked at the language people spoke. This is some of what we found...

'COMMUNITY'

GOOD

Friendship, being part of something, being valued, sense of belonging, connection, connection & self-worth

BAD

Noisy neighbours, responsibility sharing, obligation, needing private space, can't always choose who you are connected with, obligation to others, risking a loss of privacy

The real question we need to ask is...

How we build places with strong values, purpose, connection and community?

We need to learn from the past

"The characteristics of a tight knit community are better predictors of healthy hearts than low levels of serum cholestoral or tobacco use."

So how do we build on what has started to happen?

We need to reinvestigate and create new visions on where and how we live.

We need to think how do we want to live as an individual as we get older.

We need to involve a wider range of people — the community, developers, operators, healthcare specialists, educators, councils, policymakers, businesses — and for everyone to have a say and a vested interest in every development.

By collaborating, we are creating something different, which works for everyone.

Thank you!



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