

THE COST OF DISCONNECTED COMMUNITIES

DIGITAL AND SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLKIT

#CONNECTEDCOMMUNITIES

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WHAT IS THE COST OF DISCONNECTED COMMUNITIES?

A new study has found that disconnected communities could be costing the UK economy £32 billion every year.

The research, commissioned by Eden Project initiative The Big Lunch and funded by the Big Lottery, reveals the annual cost to public services of social isolation and disconnected communities, including:

- **Demand on health services: £5.2 billion** (equal to the cost of building 70 new Specialist Emergency Care hospitals)
- **Demand on policing: £205 million** (equal to the median yearly salary of 6584 police officers)
- Disconnected communities are also linked to a **loss of productivity, with a net cost to the economy of nearly £12 billion** every year.

According to the research, conducted by the [Centre for Economics and Business Research](#), neighbourliness already delivers **substantial economic benefits to UK society, representing an annual saving of £23.8 billion in total.**

This saving comes from sharing between neighbours, an increase in social connection and reductions in the demands on public services such as healthcare, social care, welfare and the environment. Neighbourliness helps ease this demand by providing locally run alternatives, such as neighbourhood watch schemes and local litter picks.

The research also reveals that neighbourliness has a huge welfare value, with over £14.5 billion saved each year because of resources shared and help provided by neighbours who know each other. This comes in the form of helping elderly neighbours, childcare and babysitting, pet-sitting, doing DIY for each other, and sharing resources such as tools.

The saving to public services equates to £2.9 billion today, rising to £8.1 billion if all the people not currently involved in community activities like The Big Lunch switch to being involved.

There are more reasons than ever for communities to come together. Getting to know neighbours through an initiative like The Big Lunch can bring people joy and happiness, while helping them, and the UK, save money.

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An @edencommunities study has found that disconnected communities could be costing society £32bn a year #ConnectedCommunities

#TheBigLunch and other community initiatives like it save public services £2.9bn a year, @edencommunities #ConnectedCommunities report finds

Research from @edencommunities study reveals Big Lunchers who know & share with neighbours in #ConnectedCommunities save £522 a year

Sharing resources & helping neighbours could save the economy over £14.5bn more a year @edencommunities #ConnectedCommunities report finds

53% of people never say hi to neighbours, but better #ConnectedCommunities make us happier and save £15bn a year, @edencommunities finds

There are more reasons than ever for communities to come together, as @edencommunities study finds #ConnectedCommunities could save billions

Through better #ConnectedCommunities, the UK health services could save £7.9bn per year, according to an @edencommunities report

Community-led initiatives ease demand on public services and could save services billions, @edencommunities study finds



Disconnected communities could be costing the UK economy £32 billion every year, @edencommunities initiative The Big Lunch finds. The report reveals the annual cost to public services from social isolation and disconnected communities, and the potential savings that exist from greater community cohesion.

There are more reasons than ever for communities to come together. Getting to know your neighbours through an initiative like The Big Lunch will bring you joy and happiness, and could also help save you and the UK money, a new report from @edencommunities finds.

A new study from @edencommunities reveals that #ConnectedCommunities could save the UK economy £23.8 billion a year. Want to see how community-led initiatives help this happen? Check out some of these movers and shakers who are having an impact in their own areas

<https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/inspiring-stories/>

A new study, commissioned by @edencommunities initiative The Big Lunch, examines the impact of community initiatives on societal welfare and the economy, finding that neighbourliness helps ease demand on public services and currently saves them £2.9bn a year.

Community-led initiatives can ease demand on public services by providing locally run alternatives, and could save services £8 billion a year, a study from @edencommunities finds. Take a look at these ideas for bringing your community together: <https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/stuff-you-can-do/>

THE BIG LUNCH

The Big Lunch is the UK's annual get together for neighbours. Since 2009, each year millions of people across the UK have come together one Sunday in June to share a meal with their neighbours.

In 2016, 7.3 million people took to their streets, gardens and neighbourhoods to join in for a few hours of community, friendship and fun at over 90,000 events.


The Big Lunch connects people and encourages friendlier, safer neighbourhoods where people start to share more – from conversations and ideas, to skills and resources.

For many, holding a Big Lunch ignites a passion for doing more good things in their community, and through our UK wide team, we support over 1000 people to deliver community led projects that make a positive difference where they live.

Through Community Camp events, experiences and access to engaging resources, the Eden Project supports ordinary people to do everyday things that create extraordinary results.

With small and simple actions, people transform the places where they live and strengthen communities across the UK.

For more information, please contact the Eden Project Communities team at communities@edenproject.com.

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