



**LEEDS
ARTS RESEARCH
CENTRE**

KEF

LIZZIE COOMBES

THE MEANWOOD ROAD PROJECT

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE FRAMEWORK DATA COLLECTION

February 2023

The University's Research & Enterprise Service has requested information on knowledge exchange and engagement with the public and communities. Please complete the form below and return it to Professor Simon Morris (S.DC.Morris@leedsbeckett.ac.uk) and Dr Tina Conkar (t.conkar@leedsbeckett.ac.uk) by **21 February 2023**.

Many thanks for your support with information gathering for this submission.

Name:	Lizzie Coombes
Job Title:	Senior Lecturer (0.6)
Email:	e.coombes@leedsbeckett.ac.uk
School:	Leeds School of Arts

Please use the template below to detail information on all projects you have undertaken since 1 January 2019 that involved public and community engagement. Please use one form per project.

Project Title:	The Meanwood Road Project
Project Date(s):	October 2022 to present day
URL Link to Project:	Digital page-turner https://issuu.com/themeanwoodroadproject/docs/magazine_layout_for_issuu Instagram https://www.instagram.com/the.meanwoodroadproject/ Twitter https://twitter.com/MeanwoodRoad
Brief Description of Project (250-1000 words max.) In the field below please give a brief outline of the project and what it entailed.	
<p>As part of a Leeds 2023 <i>My World My City My Neighbourhood (MWMYMN)</i>, I set up The Meanwood Road Project (TMRP) as a collaborative activity with neighbours and received research and development funding (£9000) to explore Meanwood Road, the paths and valleys on either side and, specifically, the communities that live, work and commute along it. Since October 2021, TMRP has hosted community walks, pop-up portrait studios and residencies at Meanwood Valley Urban Farm (MVUF) and has built a large community of residents living alongside the Road where no such community existed.</p> <p>In April 2022, I successfully applied for a Leeds Inspired main grant (£10000) to continue TMRP. The project built on what had been achieved by funding further workshops, walks and portrait studios. It culminated in a temporary exhibition along Meanwood Road (in the form of 58 banners) in September 2022 that featured the portraits taken, showcased the communities' creativity from the submission of varied artworks, hosted a birdbox (with an uncanny resemblance to a speed camera) and created a publication delivered to everyone on the road and available at MVUF. TMRP has since secured further funding (£6500) from Leeds 2023 (1 of 7 projects selected to continue <i>MWMYMN</i>) towards an ongoing series of projects and activations I intend to co-create and co-produce through my SEPP along</p>	

the road for 2023 and beyond. The work was presented at the Performance, Practice and Process Postgraduate Conference at Leeds Beckett on the 19th of May 2022.

<p>Organisations Engaged with: Please list the names of any organisations engaged with, such as Schools or Community Groups.</p>	<p>Meanwood Valley Urban Farm, North Brewing, Marveland, Leeds Inspired, Leeds City Council, Meanwood Valley Partnership, Woodhouse Ridge Action Group, The Sugarwell Hill Gang, The Barn Café, Woodhouse Cricket Club, The Salvation Army Charity Shop, Interact, Meanwood Community Centre, NJoy accommodation, Leeds Bread Coop.</p>	<p>Total participants: Please give an approximate figure for the number of people who engaged with your project.</p>	<p>Approximately 54,544</p>
---	---	---	-----------------------------

<p>Knowledge Exchange Outcomes: If relevant, in brief, please describe any knowledge exchange outcomes such as new approaches to working with a community.</p>	<p>The portrait studios were an effective way to connect with the communities and organisations to provide visibility and places for conversation. Everyone who took part was sent digital copies of their photographs and the resulting exhibition on Meanwood Road features 476 portraits with over 700 people and pets. A great example of the portrait studios' connectivity occurred at Meanwood Festival, Meanwood Community Centre, on 30th July 2022, where we talked to David Keighley, who runs The Men's Shed at MVUF. He was there selling bird boxes by the group, and we asked if the group would be interested in making one that looked like a speed camera. We had seen someone do something similar in Billingham. When we meet the group, they had already drawn up plans and were sold on the idea of being involved. It was both playful and mischievous. It has since been the focus of considerable media interest after being spotted and discussed by a local Facebook group and has featured on the BBC Look North, The Yorkshire Post and The Yorkshire Evening Post, to name a few.</p>
---	---

Quotes
In the field below please include any relevant quotes that you would like to share which evidence the knowledge exchange and engagement your project received.

Quote from Facebook Group

I decided to walk home from work this evening and, to my joy, stumbled across the banners adorning parts of Meanwood road 🙄🙄🙄 I'm going through a hard time in my life at the moment, so I hope you can understand how uplifting it was for me to firstly find the photo of myself [...] then meticulously scan the rest to see if there was anyone else I knew!! This usual forty minute walk turned into an hour and a half 🤣🤣🤣 I even got caught in the rain deluge, but it didn't put me off 🤣🤣🤣 Thank you for enabling me [...] to be a part of your wonderfully exciting project and delivering it in a way that is fully accessible to me (and giving me this silly grin I can't take off my face now!!) X

Quotes gathered at the community walks November, 2021
QUOTE 1
It's just been great to speak to other people that love around here.

QUOTE 2

Got your little postcard through the letterbox. And I'd been thinking about how my street could sort of meet one another. And we've had chats about, like maybe doing a little street party. So I thought it'd be nice to meet everyone around the area because I've lived here for just a year.

Quotes gathered at the exhibition launch 24th September 2022

QUOTE 1

Brilliant! Wonderful to see the valley and community reflected in such beautiful colour and vibrancy. I've had the loveliest chats today with people I otherwise wouldn't have met. This community can only continue to grow!

QUOTE 2

What a great exhibition! A lot of work put in. We had a good walk and saw things we wouldn't normally see passing in a car or on the bus. It was good to get together and talk to different people.

QUOTE 3

Community Building in action! Portraits, conversations and the amazing Birdbox. So impressed by the hard work of Lizzie and Katy and the wonderful farm. Such a positive force in the area!

QUOTE 4

More art to the streets!

I think posting photographs and drawings outdoors along the busy road brings personality and life to the otherwise rather boring road and fences. The project reminds us that inside the houses along the road, live people and animals and a bit further along the hills of the Meanwood Valley are tremendously beautiful landscapes. The Meanwood Road project reminded me that it's amazing and uplifting to have conversations with people who I wouldn't have come across on my own. It's an inspiring way out of isolation.

QUOTE 5

What's been so lovely when walking around has been seeing people seeing themselves on the on the barrier on the banner and taking another photo of themselves next to the banner. At the Cricket Club, a woman who was walking past suddenly said 'Ah, that's my partner's horse' (pointing to the photo on the banner). She was really chuffed and I gave her a booklet to show people. She said 'that's made her day'. Ah great stuff. Lovely chatting to people. Lovely getting to hear what people think and why they came out today.

Press for the BirdBox

Leeds 2023: Local artists open up creative toolbox to explore Meanwood commuter routes

<https://www.yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk/news/opinion/columnists/leeds-2023-local-artists-open-up-creative-toolbox-to-explore-meanwood-commuter-routes-3618238>

Meanwood Road: Birdbox disguised as a police speed camera spotted on busy Leeds road <https://www.yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk/news/transport/meanwood-road-birdbox-disguised-as-a-police-speed-camera-spotted-on-busy-leeds-road-3871681>

Leeds: Bird box anti-speeding measure built by residents
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-leeds-63247976>

Images

In the field below please include any relevant images you would like to share.

Hey. Just read the MRP book. It's great! Full of positivity and brimming with a strong sense of community. Well done to all involved and good luck going forward. See you around. Daz (...from t'farm)

Thank you Daz! Appreciate the feedback and glad you enjoyed it. Next time let's get your portrait too! 😊

You can now call each other and see information such as Active Status and when you've read messages.

Meanwood Farm
@MeanwoodFarm

The Meanwood Road Project @MeanwoodRoad is brightening up our bridge - some beautiful portraits including some farm-iliar faces

10:22 - 30/09/2022 - Twitter for Android

2

Can you see me????

@THE.MEANWOODROADPROJECT

Add this to your story >

Last weekend i joined the @the.meanwoodroadproject on their newly displayed walking exhibition, all along Meanwood Road! A fantastic project that's how's how photography can bring together a community.

@THE.MEANWOODROADPROJECT

Add this to your story >

17:36

11:03

Danni's post

Hyde Park Harriers (members & friends)
Danni Bryant · 1 h

Better late than never. 13 Harriers joined me in group 3 for a mostly downhill run. We got a nice picture next to Lizzie Coombes photos, before it started hammering it down and we had the hill at the end to tackle! Thank you to Lucy Rider for backmarking.

Also a shout out to Grace Charlotte Roberts for co-leading, who said if she led group 3, it would be from the back, but actually she was at the front the entire time (until her glasses got a fight with the rain), and she did a much better job than me at leading! Remember, if you're unsure about leading a group, co-leading is an excellent way to prove to yourself that you can do it!

13 Love 2 comments

Comment

HPH Group 3- Leading

PLUS HUGO FOUND THE PHOTO OF BEAR!

NEED TO GO AND GET A PROPER CLOSE UP!

Add this to your story >

Send message

















