

Table 3 - How can we measure health benefits in Place improvements?

The first discussion used the New Pitsligo model as a point of focus to touch on a range of issues, such as how communities can effectively be engaged at different stages; the significant length of time to develop and see the benefits of such a project; the need for funders and for those at a strategic level to recognise and invest in a lengthy period of time. Perhaps most pertinently, we spoke about the challenges of identifying the potential outcomes and benefits of a project like New Pitsligo at the outset, as many unanticipated positives emerged during the implementation so missed out on baseline measurements. Perhaps as we become more experienced with these types of projects we'll get better at anticipating outcomes, including those that are very broadly focused on community benefits.

In the second discussion, there were some more thoughts shared on the challenges of meaningful health benefits and how to measure them. There were some quite broad discussions around the difference it makes when we can effectively measure health and other benefits, and this included the point that such evidence is key when we are competing for limited resources, and for decision makers to choose between different interventions and options.

Main points	Gaps	Suggested Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectively engage with communities. Use the right language and feedback. 'Don't do it to people, do it with people'. • Challenge of engaging funders and strategic colleagues when benefits of projects may take a long time to show (e.g. New Pitsligo). • Challenges of identifying the potential outcomes and benefits of a project so baseline data can be collected. • Evidence is key when competing for limited resources, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be a lack of trust from communities who have been over-consulted and not received clear feedback on output • Long-term commitment from funders and strategy colleagues • Routine evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take time before projects start to consider potential benefits and collect baseline data • Work with funders and colleagues to appreciate long-term nature of some projects