

## Thoughts on Community

- Community is an **ambiguous** word – it means different things to different people and is used in a range of different ways.
- Community, or ‘a sense of community’ is often used to suggest certain **values** including:-
  - Common Interests
  - Feelings of Belonging
  - Solidarity
  - Mutual Support
- The word ‘community’ however is often **applied to groups from the outside** – even when the individuals being grouped together may not recognise themselves as a community
- The reality of a community lies in its members’ perception of it. For community to be ‘real’ it is not enough for people to have something in common (eg that they are Catholic, black, or live in Leith) they have to **feel like they have something in common**
  - ie something that gives them a common experience of life, or a common outlook – a ‘sense of belonging’
- Therefore it is the **relationships between people** that is one of the most significant aspects of defining ‘community’.
- Being part of a community can be a **way of understanding your place** in the world and be part of how individuals define their own **identity**.
- Individuals can **be part of more than one community**

**Working in pairs, try to come up with a definition of ‘community’**

