

Brighton & Hove



**Brighton & Hove**  
**Food Poverty Action Plan:**  
**Lessons learned**  
**3 March 2016**



# Why?

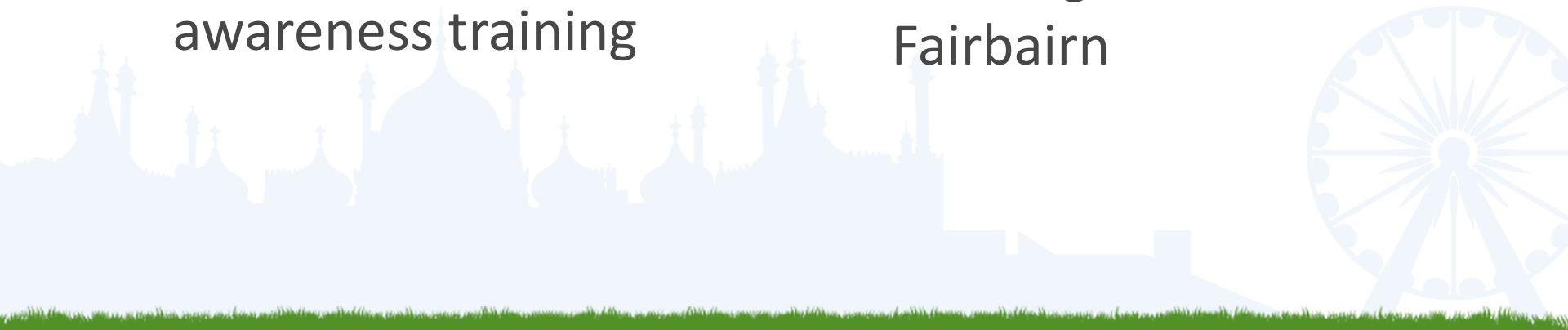
- Food poverty an issue for our city – High housing costs/ low wage economy
- Needs a collective response – too big for any one organisation.
- Food poverty is complex – can be overwhelming



# A year of development

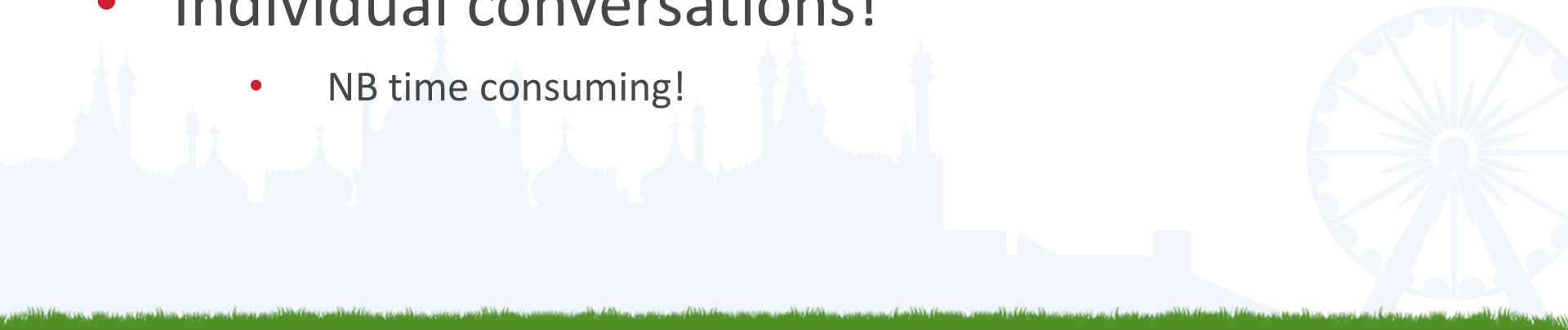
## Nov 2014 -Nov 2015

- city council commitment in November 2014
- Brought in intelligence from our food banks network, food poverty awareness training
- Also desk research – local and national
- Our own research – e.g. into ‘shared meals’ report
- Funding from Esmée Fairbairn



# Engagement at different levels

- ‘high level’ - round table event
- Also consultation events –e.g. with community & voluntary sector, advice service network (began earlier with 2012 event)
- Individual conversations!
  - NB time consuming!



## Senior decision makers

- Ensure that food at the centre of policy making, not an ‘add on’
- embedded in city policy and practice - Not ‘sit on a shelf’



# Outcomes

- 10 principles – guides future work not just this plan
- Raising awareness – process & conversations have stimulated activity
- Shifting the discussion – ‘preventative approach’



## Food poverty: A preventative approach



### Crisis food poverty

Food banks and hunger are just the tip of the iceberg

### Long term food poverty

Our approach focuses on the **much larger** group of people struggling **long term** to eat a healthy diet, and aims to **prevent** them reaching crisis point.

### What prevents food poverty?



## Outcomes – practical projects - quick wins –



**e.g. March 2016**

Pilot a holiday lunch club on a school premises (ideally in Portslade or Hangleton) via existing Chomp model and/or in partnership with school meals service.



## Part of a positive vision: “the city that cooks and eats together”



“It’s such a treat to get food like this ... if you’re living on a tight pensioner’s budget there just isn’t anything left to spend on good food”

– Hove Methodist Church lunch club attendee



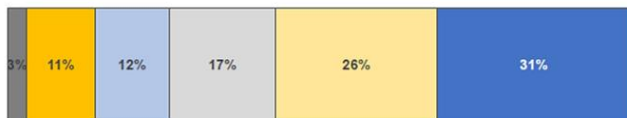
## Lack of data – plan addresses:

“Commit to measuring levels of food poverty so we know if we are being effective”

### Ability to meet basic living costs in coming year



■ Don't know ■ Strongly disagree ■ Tend to disagree ■ Neither ■ Tend to agree ■ Strongly agree



This question is new to the survey for 2014

57% agree that they will have enough money in the next year to cover basic living costs

- Meanwhile, almost a quarter (23%) disagree, indicating that they anticipate some difficulty with paying for food water and heating

The proportion who *strongly disagree* that they will have enough money is higher in certain sub-groups:

- Female residents are more likely to *strongly disagree* (14%) than males (8%)
- 18-34s (14%) are more likely to *strongly disagree* than 35-54s (9%)
- Residents with a long term health condition or disability are more likely to *strongly disagree* (18%) than those without a disability (10%)

# Also...

please include our food poverty questions!

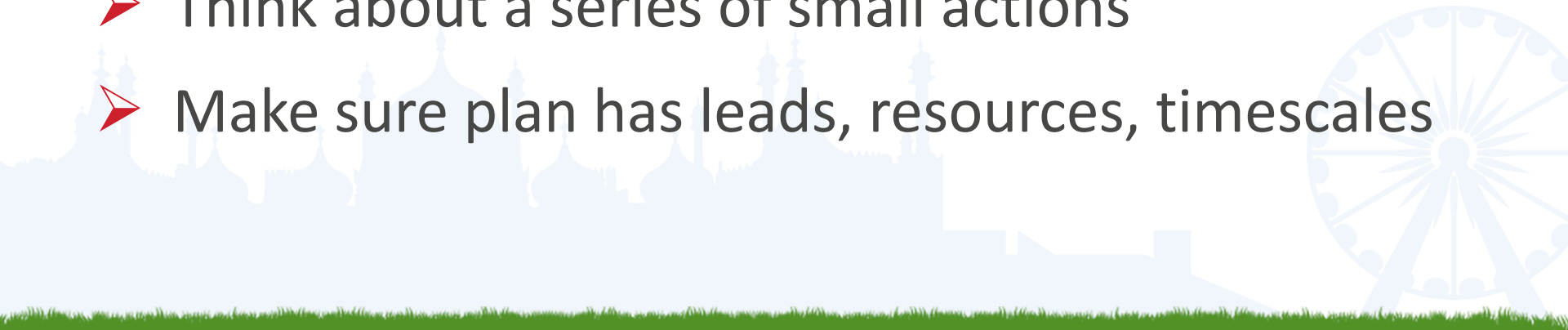


Q19 Thinking about the next year, how much do you agree or disagree that you will have enough money, after housing costs, to meet basic living costs? By this I mean to pay for food, water and heating?  
 Base: All including "don't knows" (1003)



# External environment

- There is no money!!!
- Services are being cut as demand increases
- be realistic – recognise stakeholder’s reality
- Look for cost savings/ “spend to save”
- Think about a series of small actions
- Make sure plan has leads, resources, timescales



# Over 50 partners – crucial!!!



# Case study coming soon.....

