

## 2020 Meet the Funders Community Workshop Programme Evaluation

### Introduction

Meet the Funders (MtF) is an innovative year-long programme that strengthens community work in Cornwall. Meet the Funders supports projects that address poverty, exclusion, isolation, and rurality.

It begins with a main spring event where major local and national funders meet participants seeking funding for social projects. The spring event is supported by a series of smaller community workshops. The workshops take participants through the key stages of developing, funding, and sustaining a community social action project.

The 2020 Meet the Funders Community Workshops took place between the 2 September 2020 and 3 December 2020. The programme consisted of 4 workshops and 3 surgeries, including a final Funders Workshop including guest speakers from various funding bodies

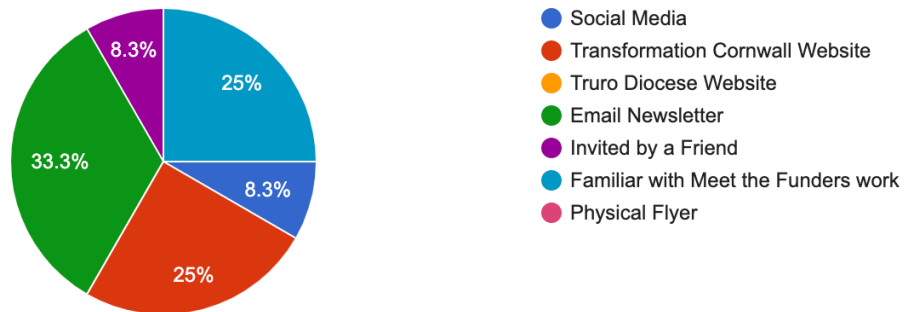
Community workshops took participants through the key stages of developing, funding, and sustaining a community social action project. Community surgeries were an opportunity to discuss the learning from the workshop with the presenters and other participants.

In January 2021, after the programme had ended, participants were sent a feedback survey using Google forms. In total 49 participants were asked to fill out the survey, and 12 responses were received. This represents a response rate of about 25%.

## Publicity/Marketing

How did you hear about our Meet the Funders community workshops and surgeries?

12 responses



Survey respondents were asked to comment on how they had heard about the Meet the Funders programme. The responses suggest that email newsletters and the Transformation Cornwall website are the primary way in which people hear about the Meet the Funders programme in the first instance, with many returning as a result of previous knowledge. Social Media appears to have played a limited role, as has the Truro Diocese website.

### Observations and Recommendations:

Centralise the Transformation Cornwall website is the main place that people come to find out about Meet the Funders, as it appears that is what people are using.

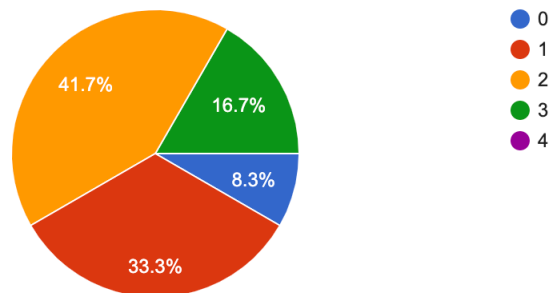
Increase use of Social Media to publicise Meet the Funders work.

Maintain links with previous participants to ensure they hear about future Meet the Funders work.

## Attendance

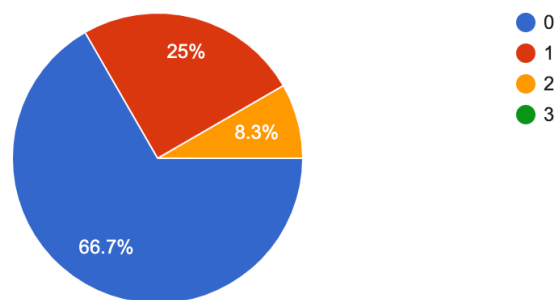
How many Meet the Funders \*workshops\* did you attend in 2020?

12 responses



How many Meet the Funders \*surgeries\* did you attend in 2020?

12 responses



Attendance at Workshops was fairly mixed, with a large spread in those that attended either 1 or 2 workshops. Very few people did not attend at least one workshop.

Attendance at surgeries was more inconsistent, with 66.7% not attending any. Of those that did attend, most only attended one.

### Observations and Recommendations:

It is difficult to speculate why attendees did not attend all events, but it may well be that they attended those that most aligned with their project priorities.

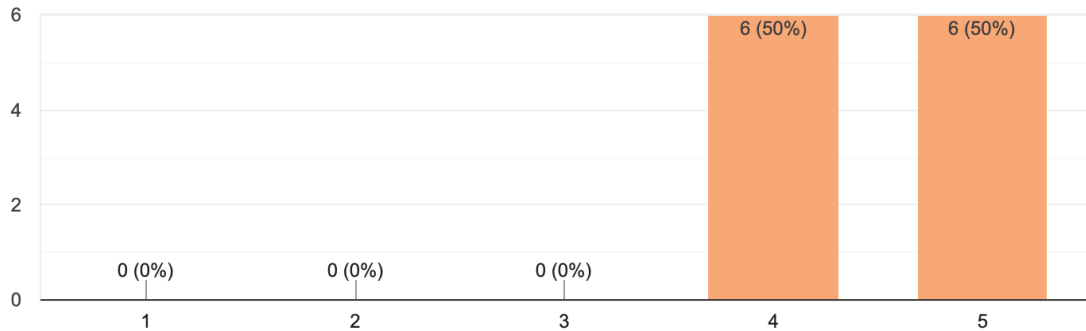
Publicise surgeries more widely and create clear messages about their benefits.

Ensure that attendees are regularly provided with programme details so they know of all upcoming events.

## Programme Benefits/Usefulness

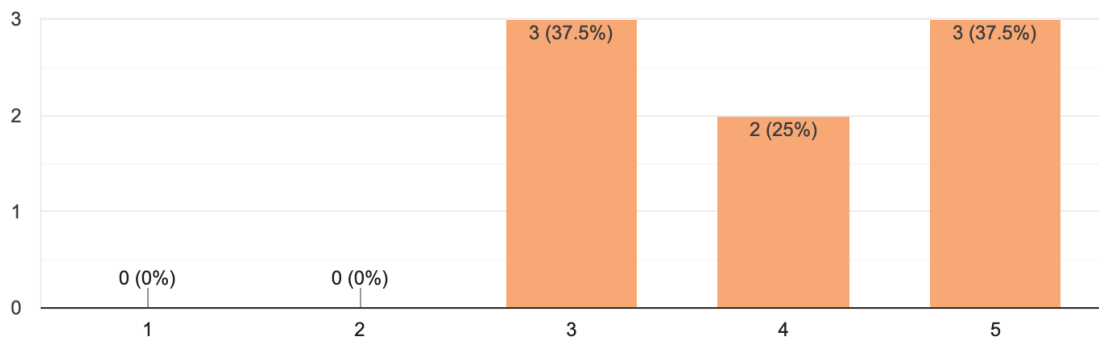
Overall, how useful did you find the workshop(s) and/or surgery(ies) that you attended?

12 responses



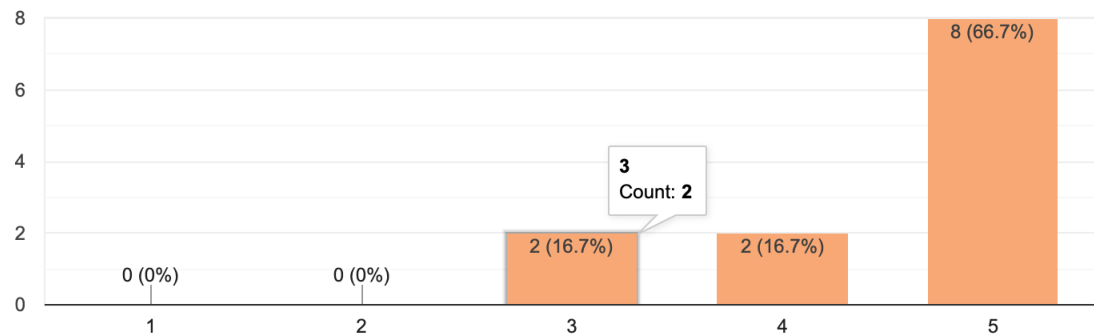
Did learning from the workshop(s) and/or surgery(ies) help you in developing your project?  
(Please leave blank if not applicable)

8 responses



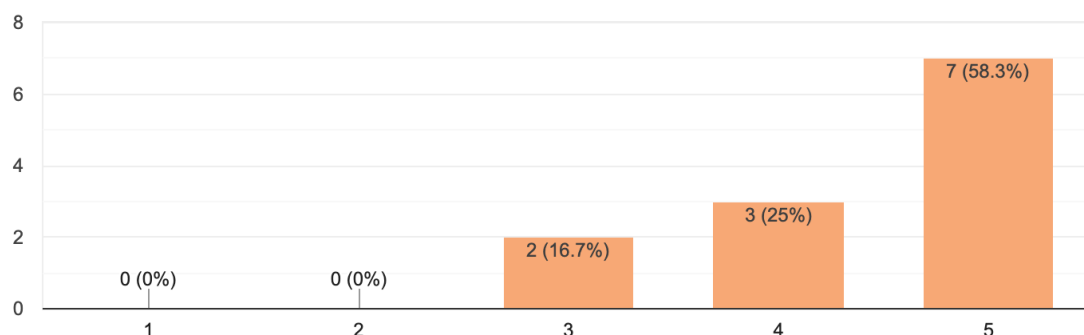
Did learning from the workshop(s) and/or surgery(ies) help you identify where to look for and find funders? (Please leave blank if not applicable)

12 responses



Did learning from the workshop(s) and/or surgery(ies) increase your confidence in putting together a funding application? (Please leave blank if not applicable)

12 responses



100% of survey respondents rated the usefulness of the workshops and/or surgeries as either a four or five in excellence. The scale ranked from one to five through Poor to Excellent.

62.5% of survey respondents felt that that the workshops and/or surgeries totally helped them in developing their project. 37.5% gave a half way score of three. The scale ranked from one to five through Not at All to Totally.

83.4% of survey respondents felt that the workshops and/or surgeries totally helped them identify where to find funders. The scale ranked from one to five through Not at All to Totally.

83.3% of survey respondents felt that the workshops and/or surgeries totally increased their confidence in putting together a funding application. The scale ranked from one to five through Not at All to Totally.

**Observations and Recommendations:**

Meet the Funders workshops and surgeries are evidently very well regarded and particularly strong when it comes to identifying and finding funders and putting together funding applications.

We might look to increase content related to project planning and development, as this area was not rated quite as highly.

## Results of Programme Participation

As a result of the workshop(s) and/or surgery(ies) have you put together a funding application? If so, would you like to tell us to which funder you have applied?

10 responses

Ongoing
Cornwall Glass, Covid-19 Emergency Fund, National Lottery Emergency Fund, Persimmons, Gibbons Trust
Waiting for estimates on work.
Not yet
In the process of.
Comic relief fund
Working on applications now
Not yet!
working on national lottery applications

Of those that responded to this question, approximately 66% had put together or were in the process of putting together a funding application.

### Observations and Recommendations:

Other respondents indicated that they had not 'yet' put together an application which suggests they will at some point in the future. This bodes well for the workshop programme encouraging confidence in participants to put together applications.

## Most Useful Part of Programme

Which parts of the workshop(s) and/or surgery(ies) did you find most useful, and why?

11 responses

General Information
Hearing directly from the funders
Discussions with members from other churches, applying for grants
Presentation by speakers plus availability of of the information afterwards to share with colleagues
opportunity to ask a direct question and to build a relationship with the funder
Resources and links
Listening to the funders give their information and then hearing the answers to questions at the end.
Q&A sessions
Find out where to apply to

Themes that emerge from these responses include:

- Q&A Sessions
- Hearing directly from funders
- Resources available after the workshops

### **Observations and Recommendations:**

Opportunities for Q&A are evidently well regarded and as are opportunities to hear directly from funders. Attendance data shows that the fourth workshop, the Funders Workshop, was the most attended event.

## Suggestions for Improvement

Are there any ways that the workshop(s) and/or surgery(ies) could have been improved?

8 responses

no

No

Could only be improved by providing more, they are brilliant

They were very well structured. Extremely helpful.

hard to execute with a lockdown, everyone trying their best.

N/A

In the difficult circumstances of the pandemic, the team did an amazing job. The sessions felt intimate and targeted. Easier to focus than in a big group.

There are no concrete suggestions made for improving the programme other than increasing the number of sessions.

### **Observations and Recommendations:**

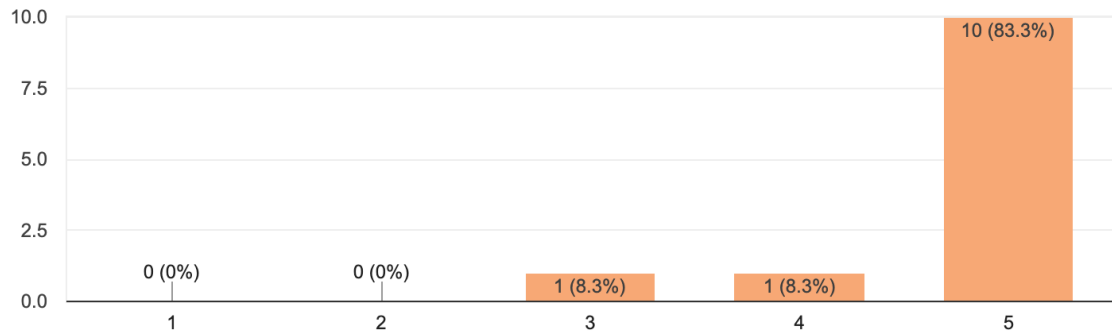
Feedback overwhelmingly positive, particularly in relation to the pandemic.



## Length of Workshops

How would you rate the length of the workshop(s) and/or surgery(ies)?

12 responses



91.6% of survey respondents rated the length of the workshops and surgeries as either four or five on their length.

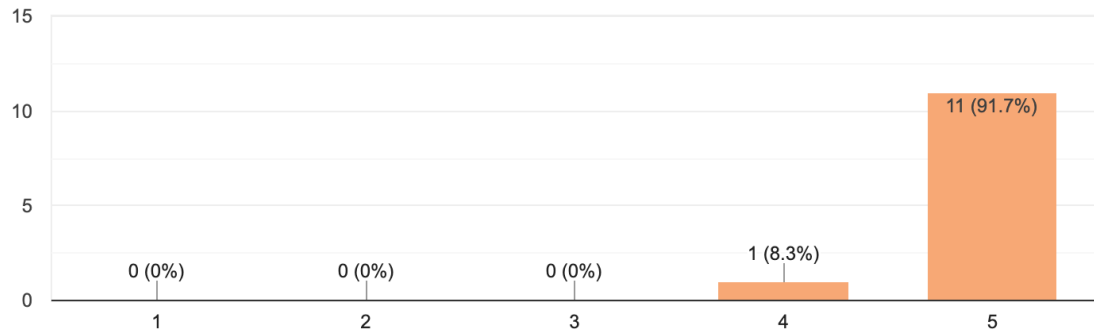
### Observations and Recommendations:

The length of one hour for workshops and surgeries and slightly longer for the funders workshop appears to be correct and well regarded.

## Recommending to Others

How likely is it that you would recommend Meet the Funders workshops and surgeries to others?

12 responses



100% of survey respondents would recommend the Meet the Funders workshops and surgeries to others. The scale ran from one to five through Not at All Likely to Extremely Likely.

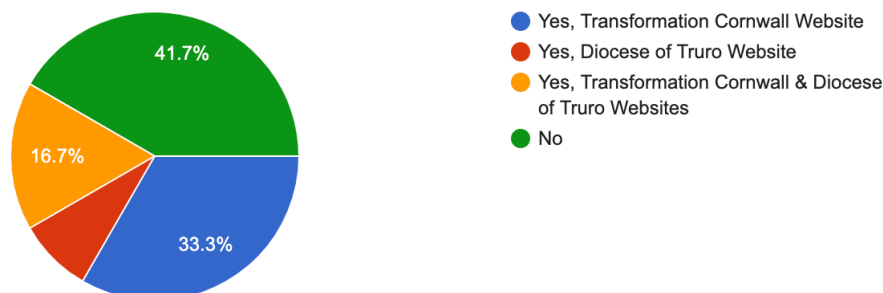
### Observations and Recommendations:

Once again this bodes well for the programme and their usefulness to participants.

## Workshop Recordings and Resources

Have you accessed any Meet the Funders workshop recordings and resources on the Transformation Cornwall website or Diocese of Truro Website?

12 responses



If you answered yes to the question above, how did you find the process of navigating and using the online Meet the Funders resources?

6 responses

- i downloaded a powerpoint, it was easy enough
- straight forward
- Fine
- Easy, though I couldn't quite find what I was looking for.
- Ok
- No problem

66.7% of survey respondents accessed workshop recordings or resources after the session. Of these, the majority used the Transformation Cornwall website.

Of those that did, the majority found the process easy or straightforward. One respondent had an issue finding what they were looking for, but they do not clarify if this was on the Transformation Cornwall or Truro Diocese website.

### Observations and Recommendations:

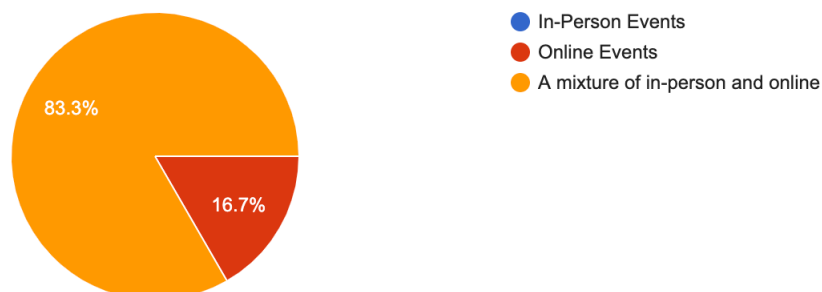
Continue to provide resources and recordings post-event, as evidently the ability to catch up on learning is well regarded.

Centralise the Transformation Cornwall as the single point of access, as that is the site the majority of people are using.

## Future Events In-Person or Online

In the future how would you like to attend Meet the Funders events?

12 responses



83.3% of respondents would like a mixture of online and in-person provision of events once these possibilities become available.

16.% preferred online events only.

100% showed a preference for some form of online provision.

### Observations and Recommendations:

Online provision is evidently liked and well regarded.

In the future, Meet the Funders events might look to a blended approach where events are live streamed, or recorded, and where online provision is still at the core of the offering.

## Any Other Comments

Any other comments?

7 responses

thank you

thankyou for a useful and informative session, I have attended previous in person events, so it was great that you adapted these to online to fit with current circumstances, and i felt these were just as effective as the in-person events for getting information across, and by doing them online saves time and travel! however an the one thin you miss from an in person event is the chance to network with various organisations in attendance. thankyou again!

valuable organisation for start ups and established

Although in person events are useful the cost in time and travel are difficult to justify, the online Meet the Funders was excellent

Keep up the good work! - it is esential

Thank you for putting on these workshops.

Well done team

### Observations and Recommendations:

These comments are a real testament to the quality of the programme and the benefit it brings to participants. Attendees are clearly very grateful for what is offered, and found them to be of benefit.

## Conclusion

Overwhelmingly the survey data weighs positively the Meet the Funders programme. Participants find the programme useful, of right length, and they appreciate the resources that are provided. Many participants are now in the process of putting together applications.

### Key Recommendations

- Centralise Transformation Cornwall website as single point of information.
- Look to keep an online element to the programme, whether through live streaming, recording, or some online only events.
- Continue to provide ample opportunity for Q&A and for speaking directly to funders.
- Publicise surgeries more widely and create clear messages about their benefits.
- Consider increasing provision about project development and planning.