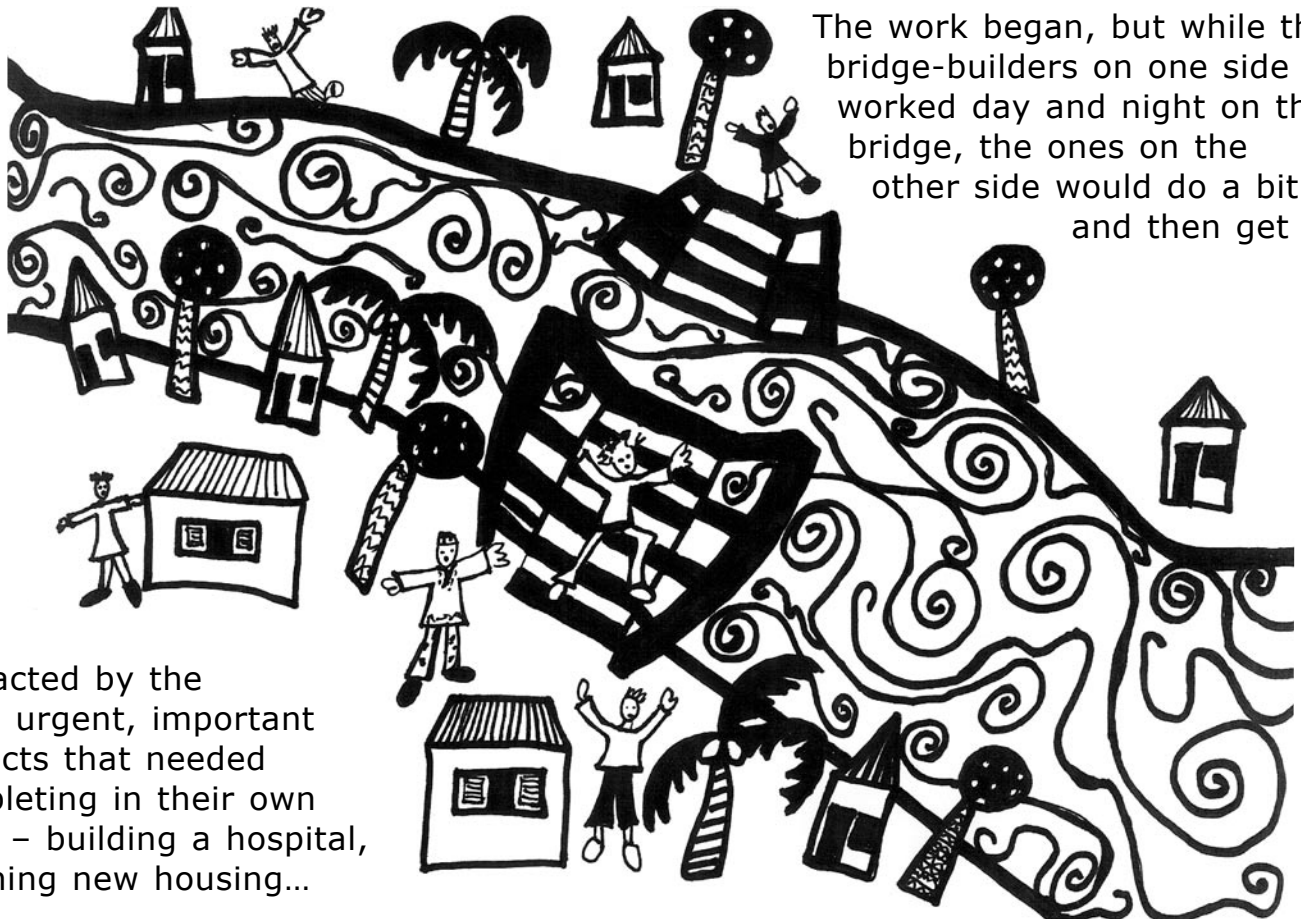


Bridge Builders

There were two towns with a wide river flowing between them. The people shouted at each other from the banks; they had all sorts of ideas and resources that they wanted to share with each other. Eventually they agreed that they would both begin building a bridge across the river to meet in the middle. Then they could talk properly.



The work began, but while the bridge-builders on one side worked day and night on the bridge, the ones on the other side would do a bit and then get

distracted by the more urgent, important projects that needed completing in their own town – building a hospital, planning new housing...

“Listen!” said the bridge supervisor at last, “If we just focus our attention on the bridge for a while and get it done, then the people from the other town can come over and help us plan and build all the other things that need doing – after all, they’re probably going to be using the facilities when our two communities are joined up.”

KEY MESSAGES

- There is a feeling from some in the VCS that they are doing the lion’s share of the ChangeUp work and they wish the statutory sector would get more involved.
- However, they do understand that the statutory sector is driven by targets that must be achieved e.g. reducing hospital waiting lists, and, in comparison, ChangeUp is pretty low down on their list of priorities – if a priority at all.
- On the other hand, there has been a recent shift towards more genuine community engagement and consultation from the statutory sector, rather than a cursory “tick-box” approach where “we only ask the people who’ll say what we want to hear”.