Community, localism and the transition to low carbon futures

Gerald Aiken
“The social and the local have come to be folded together”
(Amin, 2005: 614)

“climate change is convincing us - incase we believed otherwise - that our identities and our interpretations of the world around us can never fully escape encounters with place and materiality”
(Hulme, 2010: 275)
Transition Towns: “a community-led response to the pressures of climate change, fossil fuel depletion and economic contraction”
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If we wait for governments, it’ll be too little too late.
If we act as individuals, it’ll be too little.
But, if we act as communities, it might be just enough, just in time.
Switched On to Switching Off
Carbon Conversations
Community as a contested term is not new, Local community likewise.

What is perhaps more interesting is moving from asking ‘How?’ of these local communities, to ‘why?’
(Local) community as a context for individual behaviour change
(Local) community as a mode of environmental governance
(Local) community matters