**Blythe’s task**:

* Research existing projects to perhaps take some inspiration from them.
* Evaluate/ critique what is there, whilst finding a gap that exists which could be tackled and approached critically.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Existing project | About their project and an evaluation |
| **Anti-Eviction Mapping Project**: <https://antievictionmap.com/> | * The ‘Worst Evictors’ tab offers an open, exposing critique of landlords which relates to HtN’s aims for our campaign * However, this is not very contributory approach/ does not allow for nor foster community collaboration which is arguably a crucial element to any campaign * Equally, merely ‘calling them out’ does not get to the roots and complexity of the issues at hand, thereby if we merely adopted this approach, we would fail to facilitate critical engagement with the client’s stipulated campaign problems * However, the ‘Tenants Rise Up!’ film does focus on housing injustice experiences within particular location-based communities. This captures the community spirit of tenants suffering from similar experiences and the rhetoric of the film pivots around the idea of ‘winning housing for all’- which works productively in terms of a campaign approach * So, maybe we pursue a blend of both these ideas in our campaign- focussing on both critiques of the renting system and impacts on the community * The ‘Ellis Act Evictions’ page stipulates a specific right of a landlord and critiques it through displaying the vast amount of evictions over time displayed on an interactive map * A lot of the information they present on their site is effectively backed up by interactive data visualisations- we could adopt this to facilitate further understanding of the issue using quantitative data |
| International student housing services like **UKCISA** (UK Council for International Student Affairs) <https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Studying--living-in-the-UK/Housing> | * Defines otherwise complicated housing terminology in simple terms eg. Explanations of types of commonly used housing terms like studio, homeshare, hostels etc * Information guiding individuals in understanding university and other student housing accommodation options (like renting housing privately) * Tab-based drop-down menus revealing explanations to what they stipulated as essential questions that would need answering for immigrants * Lists things they should decide then check the property has before agreeing to rent eg. mix of people, en suite bathroom * Stipulates legal requirements of UK institutions and makes migrants aware of their own rights in UK law * Overall, useful for making tenants aware of their rights and clearly defines terminology for those who may not understand the renting system in the UK * However, just adopting a ‘providing information’ approach would be insufficient for our campaign, although useful to incorporate on some level |
| (Online platforms/ apps):   * **PadMapper** (US)- <https://www.padmapper.com/apartments/atlanta-ga> * **Roomi** (US)- <https://www.roomies.com/> * **Housing Anywhere** (Global renting platform)- <https://housinganywhere.com/s/Newcastle-upon-Tyne--United-Kingdom?categories=private-rooms%2Cstudent-housing&suitableFor=students&currency=EUR> | * Designed to help students and migrants find affordable housing options, connect with roommates, and access resources/ support services related to renting * Useful, easy to follow support system for students * However, again, does not pose much of a solution to the problem or adopt an advocacy approach which we would need for our campaign |
| (Legal aid and Tenant Advocacy Organisations):   * **Tenants Advice**- <https://tenantsadvice.co.uk/get-our-help/> * **Citizens Advice**- <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/housing/renting-a-home/renting-from-a-private-landlord/> * **Shelter**- <https://blog.shelter.org.uk/2022/08/top-tips-student-renting/> | * **Tenants Advice**: predominantly incorporates the idea of not suffering in silence and finding out your rights. Explains to tenants how they can make a claim about property issues such as damp and mould, pest problems, gas/ water leaks, structural issues, heating/ electrical problems, windows/ doors,and they respond with advice * **Citizens Advice**: informs of what rights individuals have in relation to property maintenance/ rent payments and agreements. Includes a system where tenants can identify the type of tenant they are and what impacts this has on their rights etc- eg. Assured shorthold tenant or assured/ protected tenant. Explains clearly the intricate complexities of a tenancy agreement that tenants may not be very aware of if it is their first time renting/ are inexperienced tenants * **Shelter:** informs student renters of their rights in regards to issues they might have/ moves they want to make in regards to their tenancy. Also offers written advice on private renting, deposits, problems with landlords for immigrants. Can search for housing advice by area and get the contact details of Shelter's local offices which offer free advice and help with all types of housing problems- <https://england.shelter.org.uk/housing_advice>. There is also a National Union of Students- they have a Student Renters Hub- <https://blog.shelter.org.uk/2022/08/top-tips-student-renting/>: adopts similar format to the other sites, however there is an additional complaints section where you can select your university accommodation and it tailors to you specific advice based on your personal circumstances and informs tenants of who to contact at their university to get help (eg. I tried Newcastle university and it linked to the university’s website page for that issue) |

**Overall:**

Existing projects are predominantly/ if not all very information-based, taking a knowledge centre/ advisory approach.

* The gap I have identified= existing projects fall short of conveying the human emotional toll of the problem/ humanising the problem.
* They do not offer much qualitative data to supplement quantitative.
* Perhaps incorporating digital storytelling would bridge this gap?

**So, an idea to fill this gap which supports HtN’s campaign:**

A digital app/ interactive map made exclusively for tenants with their experiences at the heart of the app’s focus. Quantitative data displayed in interactive forms is necessary and productive to supporting the campaign, however this could be supplemented by vast qualitative data incorporated through digital story telling approaches. Our app could be conceptualised in the same way as a zine: a ‘community zine’ for tenants’ experiences.

**Possible name for the app:**

* TenantTalk?
* TenantTales?

Idea of both widespread and personal tenant contributions

**So, further research required on:**

* Zine culture/ history – done (see Mermaid Map)
* Digital storytelling – done (see Mermaid Map)
* Context analysis of the housing /renting situation specifically in Newcastle