**Interview 1 – Male, 24, Newham**

**Part 2**

Interviewer:

So, can we start by talking about what you put first?

Interviewee:

Um, so, I put the barber shop. Um, it’s where I feel most socially connected…and that’s because, I think, the regularity of how often we met up there, there’s a kind of community spirit, a lot of people that attend there to get their haircut are from the local area, or barbers are from quite local areas as well and they’ve been there for so long. So, some of the barbers may have been cutting my hair for when I was like 5 years old. There’s a real like, they just know me from childhood to a man, kind of thing. A lot of my peers have had that experience with the barber shop, so, kind of, just, when you go, when we’re there, we’re just, maybe talking about, it could be football, it could be the news, it could be music, it could be lots of different things, but there’s always a shared interest and there’s always humour, comedy you know, just jokes, um, because it’s so regular and everyone needs a haircut every couple of weeks so it’s just, it’s always, it always feels like a socially connected place. Yea, definitely the most socially connected place in my local neighbourhood. And um, this [referring to the second box] …

Interviewer:

Before we go on to the next one, I was just wondering, um, so you’re saying that that shared element that you guys can talk about, the regularity for example, they’re associated with, you know, those make you feel socially connected to people. How do they make you feel?

Interviewee:

Um, it feels good to go, um I mean I enjoy the barber shop, not just for getting my haircut but for… the experience I get to have by going there and seeing the same people and knowing that they’re doing well and, everyone’s getting by fine, I think…and….I’m grateful to see people that I know and have known for a long time fine. I think every time I go there, it just reminds me that everyone’s good and well and doing okay. Um, if I move far away, I’d think I wonder how the guys at the barbershop are doing. You know? I think just…yea, I mean, if I didn’t go to the barbershop, I wouldn’t have half as many people to…think football specifically, because football is always on a weekend and I always get my haircut on the weekend. Always, it’s always the topic of football at the weekend. And football always be on in the barbershop at the weekend, so. Um just like that element of fun and humour and just the barbershop creates that really good energy, really nice place to be. Yeah.

Interviewer:

Is there anything else you want to add?

Interviewee:

I don’t think so. For the place I feel most lonely, shopping centre after 7pm roughly. It’s where you often see like a lot of the poor people sleeping rough…and…especially when I feel it. Sometimes you see like if you’re leaving early for work before like 7am, you see the security guards kind of poking them, trying to wake them up and…I think…when I walk through there people ask me for money, don’t always necessary give it to them, I think I feel quite lonely in that moment, cause like, it’s so much like, that moment, me and that person are just leading completely two different lives, we don’t understand each other, um, I don’t share their experience, they don’t share mine and I feel quite disconnected with them. I feel quite disconnected from the people who sleep rough in the shopping centre, I feel like I don’t contribute to their wellbeing, I don’t, but, and sometimes that’s the way my conscious is but I don’t think I quite know how to, I’ve seen how some people do that the right things with soup kitchens and stuff and I respect and appreciate but often I just walk through, just um, move on to wherever I’m going cause I just don’t know how my money is going to be spent and um I wouldn’t want to contribute to someone’s down, like I wouldn’t want to contribute to someone’s drug habit, so there’s conflicting emotions. I may not understand their situations entirely and them sleeping rough on the floor cardboard boxes and me walking through with my head phones in, music, in and out of my phone, it just feels like we’re living two, that to me feels quite detached and I think that’s the most lonely, in my local community that’s when I feel most lonely, I don’t feel like I know those people, I don’t feel like they know me, I don’t feel…um…yea and I think that’s quite lonel [not finishing his word], yea it’s quite weird, that I’d, it still feels lonely for me even though I feel like, it’s more their lonely experience, I feel like they, in that instance, they’re being outcasted from the society. But when I go through and I don’t understand it might feel lonely cause like, cause I don’t, yeah. [a few seconds of pause]. And it kind of resents…kind of resent certain things, I think it makes me resent certain things, cause I can’t remember the last time I walked passed someonew ho is like, kind of, who asks me for change and I’ve said no and I haven’t actually said that. It’s like without fail, if I say no, I’d still walk away and second guess myself “ah, should I have, should I have, should I have?” but then if I on the time when I have, I’d still walk away and second guess myself “ah, should I have, should I have, should I have?”, so it’s like, I really really don’t understand their situation and it causes me to be, but I know that big part of me doesn’t always think nice, it’s entirely their fault, but like, and sometimes I feel like um, I feel like quite resentful to systems like councils, governments, all that sort of thing, I feel completely resentment when I walk through those environments and see those people sleeping rough in my community what I identify as my community, it can make me feel resentment towards people who have provided this situation and that can make me feel quite lonely as well cause it makes you feel like people are responsible for supporting people are not necessarily, they don’t necessary care that much. And that can bring feelings of loneliness. The forgotten ones.

Interviewer:

Is there anything else you’d like to add?

Interviewee:

That’s about it.

Interviewer:

Thank you.