

How “Planning for Real” can support positive community involvement

Alan Tuffs on behalf of the Planning for Real Unit

Where it all began



- Dr. Tony Gibson 1920 - 2014
- Long time believer in the power of people
- He had a “can do” attitude
- His passion – putting residents at the heart of any discussions about change
- I first met Tony

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How it spread



- What had started with children in schools, developed with residents in disadvantaged communities and got its name in Glasgow when people wanted their energy to be taken seriously - **“for real”**
- In association with Town and Country Planning Association, Tony was asked to support the development of a self build housing project in the New Town of Telford, in the West Midlands of England
- This was the catalyst for the establishment of the Neighbourhood Initiatives Foundation - a national charitable NGO based in Telford

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What we learned over the years - residents want



- Openness and honesty
- Early and continuing involvement
- Accessible ways of participating
- Easily understood information to aid informed choices / decisions
- To be listened to, with their views respected as the “inside” experts
- To see something happen as a result -
“Quick Wins”, alongside long- term sustainable change

How “*Planning for Real*” can support positive community involvement

A wide spectrum of understanding about what is meant by “CONSULTATION”

- In the 1970s, a **public meeting** was the established method of consultation
- First used in 1977, **Planning for Real** was a revolution in ways of consulting
- Reaching out beyond usual suspects
- Tapping into local knowledge, skills, experience, resources
- Showing / doing, not just talking
- Developing a Plan of Action - making things happen



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The Planning for Real Process

Preparation
Preparation

2) 3D model



3) Consulting Residents



4) Identifying Priorities



5) Action Planning



The Process in more detail



Finding the leading lights in the community

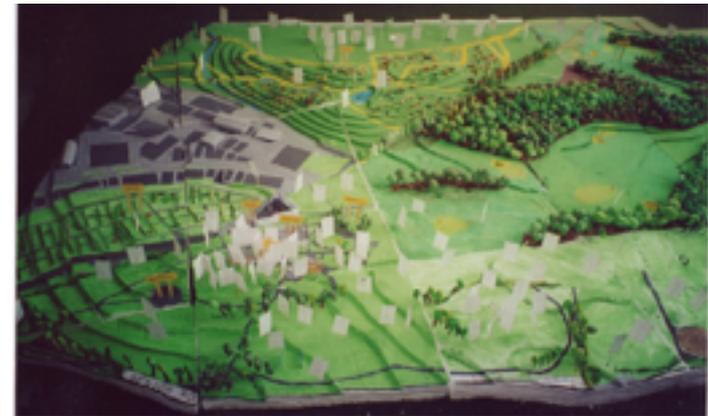


Residents and “expert” on walkabout of estate

The Process in more detail



Reaching out - chatting on the doorstep - finding hidden skills



Creating the 3D model
a “bird’s eye” view

The Process in more detail



Eyes down, hands on -
showing not talking



Never too old or too young

The Process in more detail

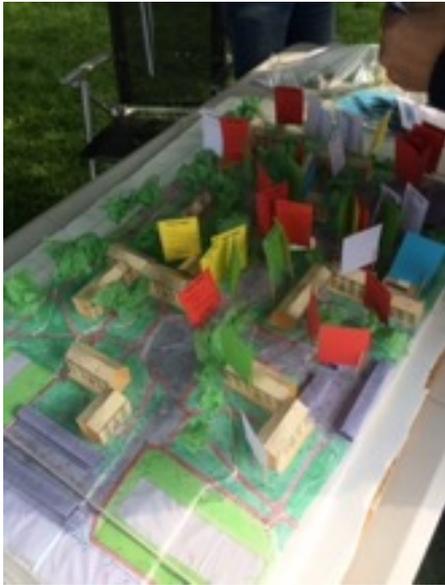


“Inside” and “Outside” experts
working together



The Plan of Action -
worked out together -
realistic & achievable -
making things happen

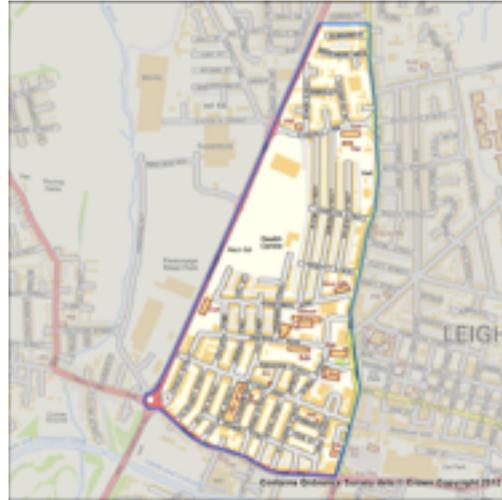
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Example

Clent Way Estate Regeneration Project - Accord

How neighbourhood planning can support positive community involvement



Example

Regeneration - Leigh Neighbours Project

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Participative Planning - Europe

- Leonardo TOI funding
- 2 year project 2013 - 2015
- 5 Countries: France, Italy, Turkey, Poland and UK
- Italian Partner - Euro Innovanet
- Redeveloping the Pigneto District in Rome
- Lead & Local Facilitators trained
- PFR materials trialled through “real life” projects.
- Final EU Transferable Pack



Why these methods work

- It’s community-led
- It’s not a public meeting!
- Engages all ages - younger and older
- Models and visuals easily understood
- Lightweight - can be taken to where local people are - indoors and outdoors
- Using both pre-written and blank “flags” means everyone gets a “say”
- Identifies priorities
- Generates consensus
- Non-confrontational
- Positive experience - people stay involved.



To follow up contact

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