FLIPCHART NOTES FROM WORKSHOPS, 29 APRIL 2010

PLANNING TO ACT – LYNN WILSON

WORKSHOP 1

- Using "animateurs" to deliver training to seldom heard groups
- Musicians / artists to relay a complex message
- Drama tool aimed at teenagers
- Lynn is a community development specialist
- Began with "Planning is a drama" – initially delivered by drama specialists – now includes planners
- Use 'Streetwise' to make better places for young people
- Makes planning jargon more accessible to young people
- Emphasis on fun – helps give them a 'voice' and enables them to exercise it
- Helps to appreciate other people's views and how planners have to balance these
- Seems to work for both participants – young people – and planners
- Work through community liaison – to reach the young people – and help them gt involved with community councils

Role play –
Each had different (secret) role – to discuss a new proposal for a 'taxi rank' business

- Public transport in area is inadequate
- Each had to put across their role's point of view

Take scenario into a real planning situation
Issues?

- Taxi premises?
    - Planning permission for change of use – if use local premises
    - Neighbours of community council premises
    - "Private hire" or "taxi rank" or "community enterprise"
    - Will need to book through office – all it would be is booking office
    - Taxis at homes of drivers using their cars
    - Go with majority verdict
- Hours of operation – potential problem users
- Consultations with the public
- Possible highway issues
- Who would use service?
- Is this "sustainable" transport?
- Alternative modes e.g. bicycles

- Use of drama gets points across – e.g. one person dominating debate
- In reality it would work differently as often 'planners' don't involve or engage with the community
- Could be branched / rolled out to others – wider than just schools – other 'hard to reach' / 'seldom heard' groups
- Most ordinary people are not really engaged with the planning system
- Merit in getting to them when young – i.e. they'll educate their families
- How can this be translated into real life scenarios?

- Role for Planning Aid – simply use as a vehicle to get public interested – who are not often interested unless it affects them directly
- Public may be asked what they think – but then feel ignored
- Planning Aid – what are the outcomes - e.g. to build their capacity, e.g. little bit of knowledge of the planning system
- To have a voice that can be heard i.e. relate to planning issues
- Don't want to raise expectations – i.e. that they will be heard and not ignored
- PA – important for public to have their say – to say what they would like and not what planners think they 'need'
- Communicate <u>when</u> to get involved and <u>how</u> to get involved
- Help them with the language – i.e. relevant points
- Mitigation – what could they gain
- Help them to see their framework

WORKSHOP 2

Techniques for involving young people

- Warm-up exercises
- Awareness of needs of neighbourhood
- Where activities should be located
    - Inter-relationships
    - spatial awareness
    - Public speaking techniques
    - Projecting voice
    - Enhancing confidence
- Active citizenship
    - Projects on presentations
    - Research subject to enable confidence
- Planning Aid South – Arts Work
    - Train young people to work with others
    - In development stage
- Involve 5-11 year olds
    - Pester parents and grandparents
- Integrated curriculum
    - Comprehensive approach
- Need to explain planning system in simple terms
    - Legal structures and procedures are very complex and technical
    - Highly politicised and frustrating
- Explain why planning exists – what is it for?
    - Individual and social
    - Role of RTPI?
- Complexities of system
    - Problem – takes time to explain
    - Resources are stretched
- Need to prepare ground first
    - Programme of events?
    - Tie in with curriculum – Citizenship / civil engagement? Geography?
- Need to be enthusiastic!
- Involvement with Youth Parliament
- Continuum
    - Family > neighbourhood > town > council area > etc.
- Planning Aid North East scheme
    - Primary school activities
    - LA officers, councillors and <u>parents</u> come to hear presentation
- Scotland
    - Regeneration opportunities, eg waste ground near school
    - Teaches presentation skills
- Need to be realistic – who has the resources?