

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

Alan Tuffs on behalf of the Planning for Real Unit

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

## **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



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### **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



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

## The Planning for Real Process

Preparation  
Preparation  
Preparation  
Preparation  
  
Preparation  
Preparation  
Preparation  
Preparation  
  
Preparation  
Preparation  
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



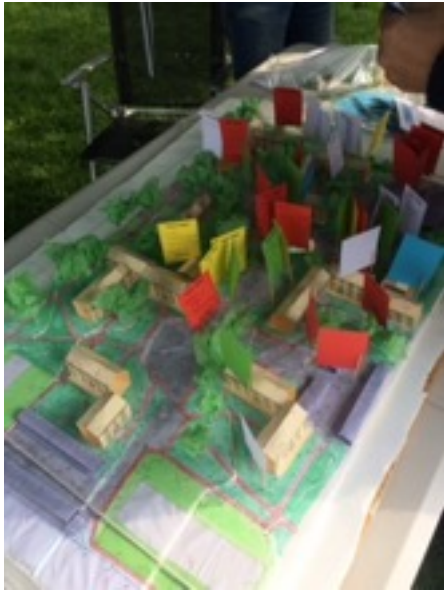
“Inside” and “Outside” experts  
working together



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



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



Example

Clent Way Estate Regeneration Project - Accord

# How neighbourhood planning can support positive community involvement



Example

Regeneration - Leigh Neighbours Project



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



## 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



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## **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

**Margaret Wilkinson**

Head of Planning for Real Unit

Accord Housing Association

3, Wellington Road,

Bilston,

Wolverhampton

West Midlands,

WV14 6AA

UK



[margaret.wilkinson@accordgroup.org.uk](mailto:margaret.wilkinson@accordgroup.org.uk)

[www.planningforreal.org.uk](http://www.planningforreal.org.uk)

+ 44 (0)1902 571 156