**THE VALUE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN PLANNING**

***Your experience***

Please provide a brief description in the box below of a community engagement process that you have experienced recently. Whether on a plan or on a project, small or large, (as *you* see it) – generally successful or not.

Please tell us **where exactly it was**, **what it was about** and **what your role was**.

*All boxes expand as you write.*

What **benefits** or **positives** do you believe came out of this process, and **for whom**?

What perhaps, was **less successful**, what **negatives** were there and again, **for whom**?

What do you think the key things are that would have **made this process better**?

Do you think this would be a good example to look at in more detail for this project?

**YES NO**

Would you be happy to be the *initial* contact for a case study if it were chosen?

**YES NO**

If no, please suggest as an appropriate contact?

**Name:**

**Contact details (email and/or phone):**

***Advantages***

The following are some statements often made about the **benefits** of community engagement in planning **generally**.

* *For each benefit listed, place an ‘X’ the relevant box on the given scale, from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree)*
* *Add any other benefits you consider are important.*

**Good community engagement can:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Strongly Disagree** |  | **Neutral** |  | **Strongly Agree** |
|  | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| Introduce community ideas, concerns, and aspirations. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Introduce community knowledge and information. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Raise community awareness and understanding of planning. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Help to secure community agreement on a plan or project. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Save time *overall* from ‘day 1’ to completed plan or project. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Save resources *overall* from ‘day1’ for all parties. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Improve the quality/deliverability of the end plan or project. |  |  |  |  |  |

Any other suggested benefits or comments?

***Disadvantages***

The following are some statements often made about the **disbenefits** or **disadvantages** of community engagement in planning **generally**.

* *For each disbenefit listed, place an ‘X’ in the relevant box on the given scale, from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree)*
* *Add any other disbenefits / disadvantages you consider are important*

**Community engagement can be negative because:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Strongly Disagree** |  | **Neutral** |  | **Strongly Agree** |
|  | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| Few people understand enough to contribute usefully. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Community views should not outweigh broader aspirations. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Comments often have little to do with planning issues. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Community views are always parochial, or even selfish. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Securing agreement from a range of people is impossible. |  |  |  |  |  |
| People are tired of responding to consultations that do not lead to change or provide feedback. |  |  |  |  |  |
| People do not bother responding. |  |  |  |  |  |

Any other suggested disbenefits or comments?

***Improving Practice***

The following are often argued to be key **general principles for making engagement genuine and effective**.

* *For each principle listed, place an ‘X’ in the relevant box on the given scale, from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree)*
* *Add any other principles you consider are important.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Strongly Disagree** |  | **Neutral** |  | **Strongly Agree** |
|  | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| Start early, on ’day 1’; not when a plan is drafted, or a project is designed. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Make clear what can and cannot be changed as a result of engagement. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Share information that is understandable to non-experts. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Making sure to contact and engage all key groups and individuals. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ensuring the ‘usual suspects’ do not dominate the process. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Use a range of methods and times that enable everybody to contribute. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Offer more than just one or two opportunities to contribute. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Offer genuine options (or explain why no others are possible). |  |  |  |  |  |
| Produce and share a final report to show contributions were used. |  |  |  |  |  |

Any other suggested improvements or comments?

***THANK YOU VERY MUCH!***

**Please return the completed questionnaire to:** [**deb@planningaidwales.org.uk**](mailto:deb@planningaidwales.org.uk)

This email address can also be used if you have any comments or questions.

**By returning this form, you provide consent for your data to be processed in line with the privacy notice (**[**click here to view**](http://www.planningaidwales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/PAW-PRIVACY-NOTICE.docx)**)**

**Your info**

PRIVACY NOTE: The following personal data will be used to contact you regarding further participation in this study only and will be stored separately from your response to the rest of the survey. Your responses to previous questions will be stored anonymously and in a non-directly attributable way. We will keep this data safely in password-protected files for three years, and the findings in a raw format form will only be seen by the Planning Aid Wales Ltd. research team. Completion of the following form is OPTIONAL.

**Name:**

**Location:**

**Organisation:**

**Role:**

**Email:**