



Community Planning Resource Sheet

Community-led Plan: Consultation

Overview

Produced by CRCC in partnership with Cornwall Council

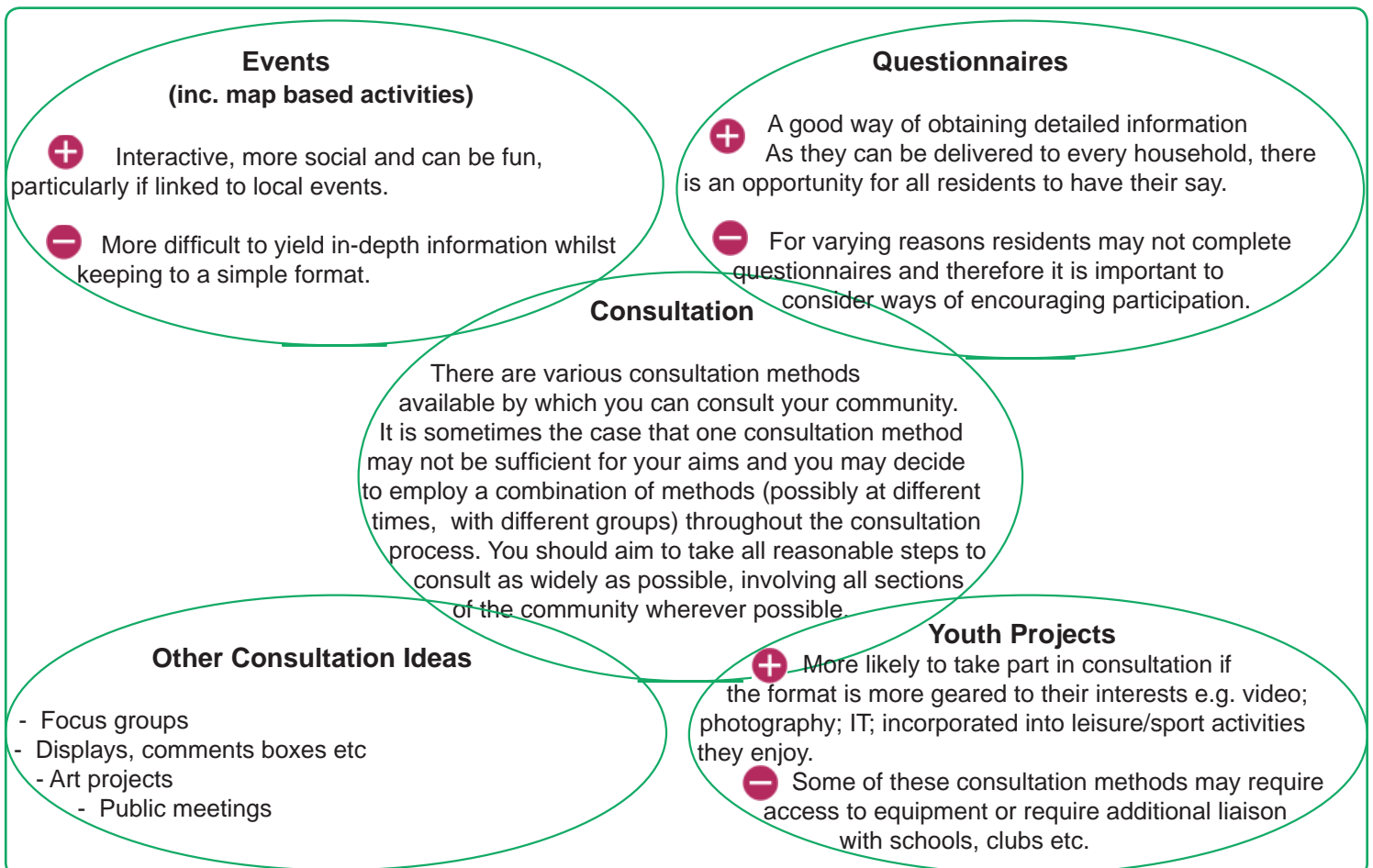
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This resource sheet is intended to help communities understand and work through the community-led planning (CLP) process, in conjunction with support and advice from CRCC and Cornwall Council officers. In addition to this CLP overview there are individual sheets with hints for each stage of the process e.g. consultation; writing the plan; as well plans to produce themed resource sheets (e.g. community buildings, transport, planning) to help get the most out of this process. Where appropriate the themed sheets will be produced in consultation with relevant key organisations.

It is intended that these resources and the support available will strengthen the community-led planning process and provide communities with a better understanding of the priorities of the statutory authority, health, police and so on. Communities can then choose, where appropriate, to tailor their consultation to both suit their local needs whilst influencing strategic priorities - forging a mutually beneficial relationship, and creating a more robust and effective plan.

Ultimately the community chooses what goes into the plan, but being aware of the objectives of other organisations, and having an understanding of what information needs to be obtained in order to implement certain actions can help the communities achieve their aims.



General Points

Participation.

This is key to the whole community planning process - you need to encourage as many people as possible to give their views, as a low response will undermine the strength of your case, for example where you need to show support for, or opposition to, certain actions or activities that could have an effect on the community as a whole. Communities can sometimes feel that they are being 'over-consulted' with little overall benefit to them - there is no easy solution to this criticism, other than being clear about why you are consulting them, what you (realistically) want to achieve, and by building enthusiasm within the community.

Choosing A Consultation Method.

There are, of course, many ways to consult and you will need to give thought to what is likely to work best in your area: demographics and geography of the parish may be something that you need to consider, as well as capacity to undertake this.

Seek Advice and Information.

The quality of the consultation data underpins the whole process. Whilst it is important to consult as widely as possible (by trying to involve as many residents as possible), it is just as important to consult as effectively as possible. This is in terms of obtaining the right information (irrespective of what method or methods you use), setting timescales that ensure that the process flows and momentum is retained, and ensuring that you keep people informed.

There are many groups that have gone through the process that can tell you what they did, and whether there were any elements that, with hindsight, they might have done differently. In addition, officers from Cornwall Council or Cornwall Rural Community Council will be able to offer you advice and support.

More Information.

For more information and suggestions on the different types of consultation, as well as tips and examples of do's and don'ts please refer to the separate resource sheets (numbers).



Disclaimer: The information in this resource sheet is correct to the best of our knowledge at the time of publication. While every care has been taken during the completion of this resource sheet CRCC or its partners cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies.