

Building Bridges

FROM COMMUNITY CONSULTATION TO MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

From the usual suspects

- The incensed and the articulate are heard
- Squeaky wheels and powerful elites bargain, negotiate, lobby and campaign
- Aligned to interest groups
- Identified as stakeholders
- Silent majority's opinions are sought superficially

From advocacy.....

Asserting our own point of view:

Explaining

- "here's how the world works and why I see it that way"

Asserting

- "here's what I say and why I say it"

Dictating

- "here's what I say and never mind why"

Testing

- "here's what I say and what do you think of it"

From passive....

INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
Provide the public with balanced and objective info to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives and solutions	Obtain public feedback on analysis and/or decisions	Work directly with the public through the process to ensure that public issues are consistently understood and considered.	Partner with the public in each aspect of the decision, including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution	Place final decision making in the hands of the public

MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT

To new contributions

- Diversity through random selection
- Formerly voiceless are given a voice
- Silent majority are heard
- Involving the 'voiced' as local experts—change the role of activists

Inclusiveness ensures engagement that is:

- Representative of the population
- Inclusive of diverse viewpoints and values
- Based on equal opportunity to contribute

To skilful discussion, balancing

- Advocacy (explaining and asserting our own point of views, making our own thinking and reasoning visible to others)
- Reflection (slowing down our thinking to become more aware of our self and how we form ideas about the world)
- Inquiry (inquiring into others thinking and reasoning, openly sharing views and developing knowledge.

- Speak honestly and openly, seriously consider other views
- Thoroughly understand the issues and implications
- Reframe, seek a range of solutions,

To meaningful engagement

Influence provides the capacity to influence policy and decision making.