

Equality Advisory Group Feedback from Neighbourhood Working Workshop held June 2013

A) Communicating - How to give people a voice

- Needs to be a variety of options
- Face to face enables accountability and check understanding
- Understanding of a ward committee/residents forum (training?)
- (diversity of committee and officials, life experience)
- Email (with response within reasonable time, a big positive = it gives you proof)
- Petitions – thresholds for debate?
- Person from the community as facilitator (balance of power)
- Facebook, Twitter
- Surveys (Survey Monkey, Google forms)
- Use libraries
- If letters are used this requires a response
- Use the email shapingneighbourhoods@york.gov.uk to engage with the Communities and Equalities Team
- Invite Councillors to our groups
- Encourage voting at elections
- Use village / ward newsletters
- Have meetings based on single issues
- Agree dates in advance
- Put out reminder 7-10 days in advance
- Use social media
- Use Radio York /other radio stations
- Promote on council tax bills e.g. the annual meeting

B) Meetings & Events - how to get people coming

- Begin with “What’s in it for You” , use short snappy titles like “Have Your Say”
- Think about where they have their meetings and make it easy for people to get there, give directions, if any access needs contact...
- Think about training needs for Chairs
- Ground rules
- Posters in shops, GPs etc, public notice boards, libraries, leaflets not inside newspapers, social media etc
- Offer childcare arrangements
- Get estate managers to encourage people to go
- Make sure there are clear action points and reporting back

- Have a surgery style meeting before the main meeting (Ward Cllrs, council officers, Police)
- Enable people to feed in advance
- Go to where people are e.g. mobile surgeries
- Join in with parish councils, residents associations, community groups
- Report back to community i.e. action taken, funding decisions etc
- Canvassing (sensitively and empathetically, training requirement? – to give confidence to interact effectively with different people)
- Have single issue meetings
- Use social events/fairs, tap into existing events in the city e.g. clothes exchange sloppy slipper freebies etc
- Use public sector services e.g. health testing
- Use joint partnership presentations
- Include feedback in the meetings
- Involve the student community reps
- Have an inclusive approach to minority groups, welcoming environment