

PARTICIPATORY RURAL PLANNING AND THE SPAN PROJECT IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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4th Annual Rural Planning Conference, Queen's University Belfast
4th December 2007

PRESENTATION CONTENT

- The SPAN project
- Participatory planning styles
- The SPAN project in Northern Ireland

THE SPAN PROJECT

- Part of the EU INTERREG 111B North West Programme, 2003- 2008 (E4.8m).
- Multi-disciplinary and trans-national dimensions
- Practice partners and universities from Belgium, France, Ireland and Northern Ireland
- The relationship between strategic spatial planning and local development
- The frameworks of multi-level governance
- New tools, new capacities, new policy directions
- Citizen participation is a cross-cutting theme

PARTICIPATORY PLANNING STYLES

1. The democratic imperative

- rights based – eg Section 75 groups
- assumes a desire to participate
- related to a social inclusion agenda
- accompanied by a moral exhortation to participate
- deliberative democracy versus representative democracy

PARTICIPATORY PLANNING STYLES

2. From strategies to implementation

- The conventional methods of public consultation
- Seek to embrace diversity in society
- Aim to promote greater responsiveness to service users
- Perceived as extractive – consultation atrophy
- Often adversarial

PARTICIPATORY PLANNING STYLES

3. Participation as social learning

- Co-producing knowledge and policy
- Those participating are themselves changed
- Needs respect for all forms of knowledge
- Technical knowledge, plus citizens' knowledge of localities, histories and communities
- Knowledge brokers are needed
- Deliberative forums are useful
- Not searching for a one-off elusive consensus
- Policy content and processes are shaped by successive rounds of learning

THE SPAN PROJECT IN NORTHERN IRELAND

- **Policy sphere:**

Community based rural development and rural spatial planning

- **Aims:**

Participatory planning as social learning – attitudinal shifts – reform of the 'problem' – pathways towards solutions – feeding back into spatial planning policy

THE SPAN PROJECT IN NORTHERN IRELAND

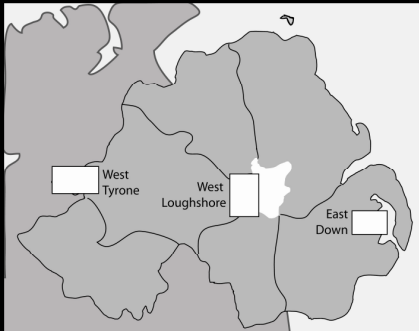
Pilot actions since 2004:

3 rural localities: accessible, intermediate, peripheral

local involvement: citizens, local government, community organisations

research on settlement morphology, household questionnaires, community workshops

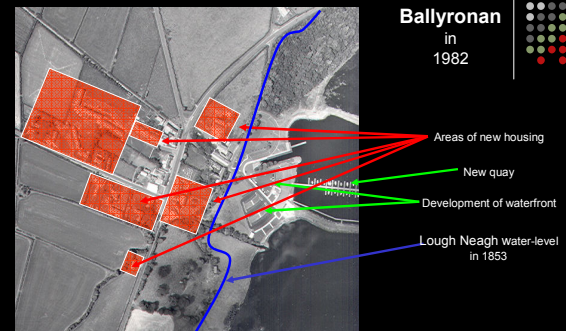
bridging community preferences and environmental responsibility

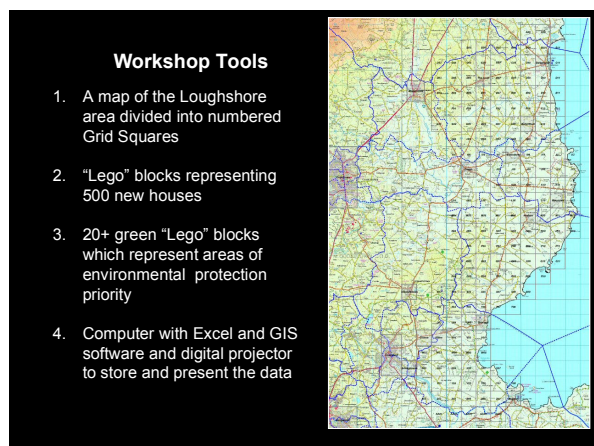
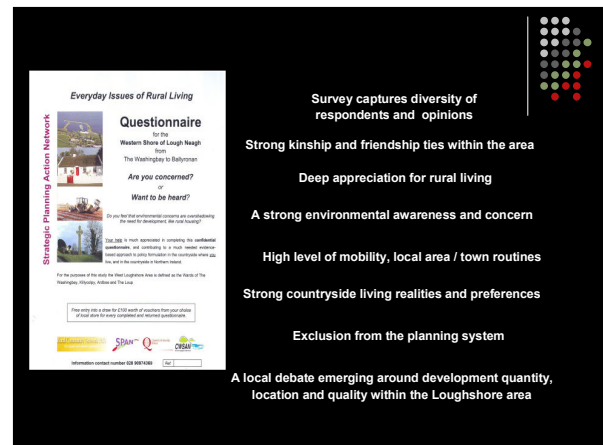
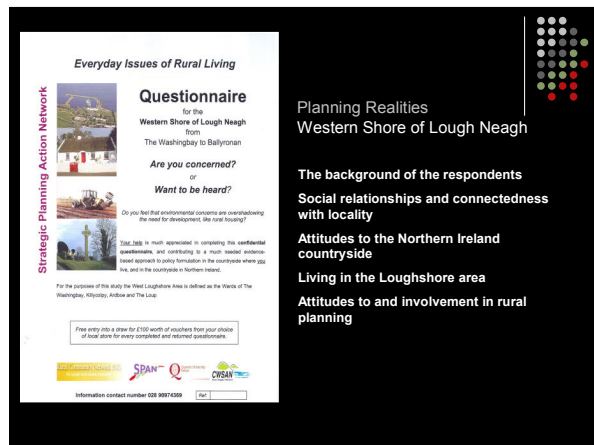
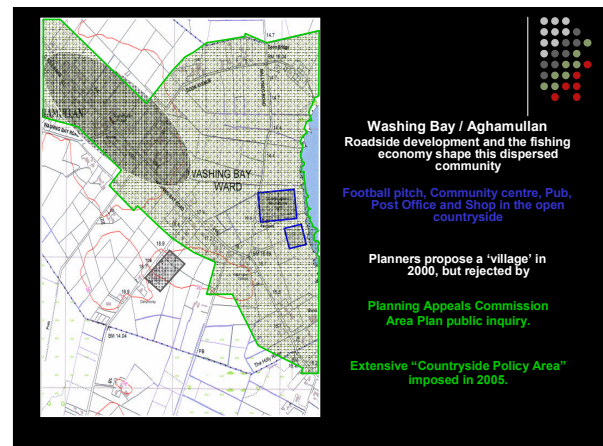


Example – The Loughshore

- 250 sq km
- 2 District Council areas
- 4 wards of Washing Bay, Killycolpy, Ardboe, The Loop
- Population in 2001 = 9,200
- Settlement pattern of villages and mosaic of countryside dwellings and social infrastructure
- Very strong local identity / sense of belonging
- Neighbouring large and small towns
- Lough Neagh and its shoreline important for environmental conservation
- Complex spatial planning challenges

Western Shores of Lough Neagh
Retrospective Maps
Contemporary Questionnaire
Re-visioning: Housing Modelling

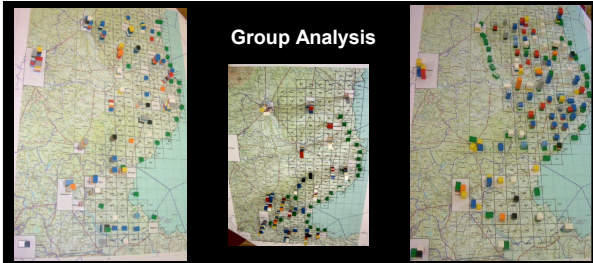




Task

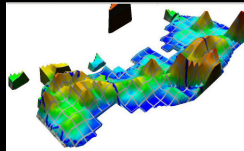
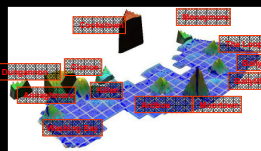
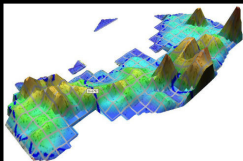
- Assume the housing demand within the four wards over the next ten years will be 500 houses.
- Establish where you would like this future housing development to be located- within and outside the area.
- Establish your environmental preferences for the local area.
- Distribute the housing to individual grid squares.
- Decide if you wish to protect the environment of a grid square.
- Count the housing / environmental protection allocations.
- Identify the values underpinning the distribution.
- Explore a more strategic view through use of the maps.

Group Analysis



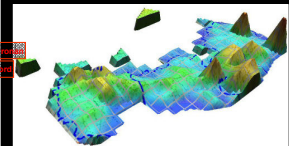
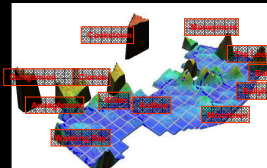
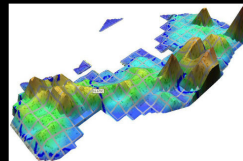
Analysis – Group 1

The creation of a new village in the countryside at the former airfield at Ardboe gives a 'countryside' share of 57%, existing villages - 9%, and towns outside the four wards - 34%



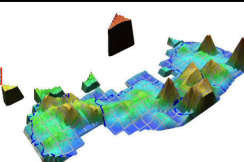
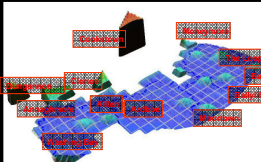
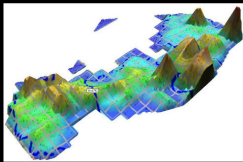
Analysis – Group 2

42% of new housing in the countryside, 34% in villages, 24% in towns



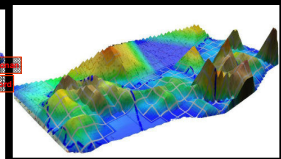
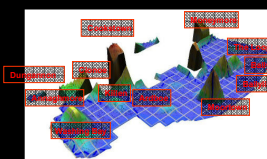
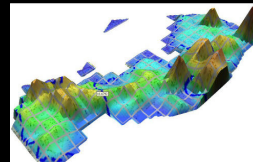
Analysis – Group 3

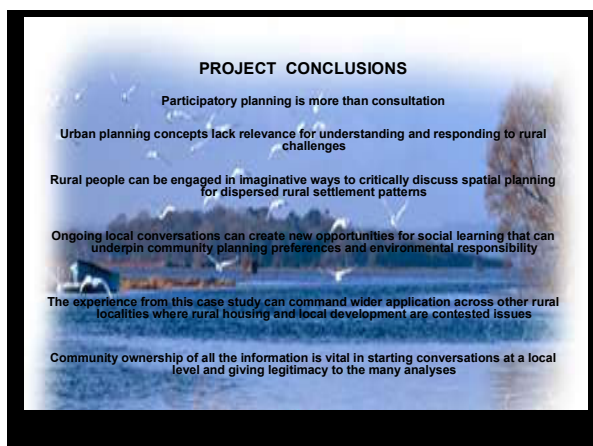
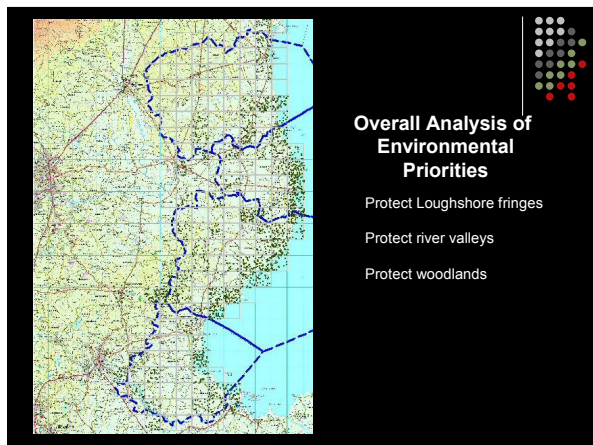
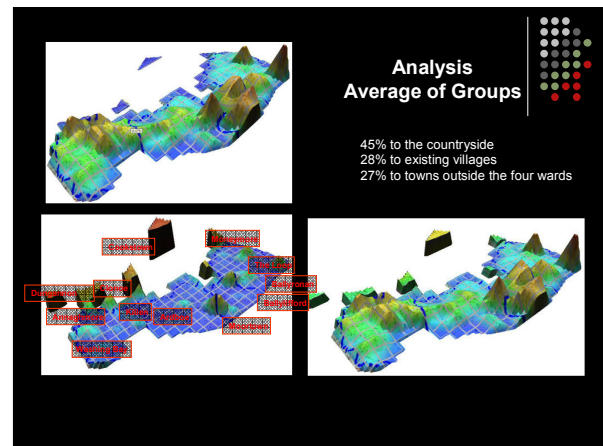
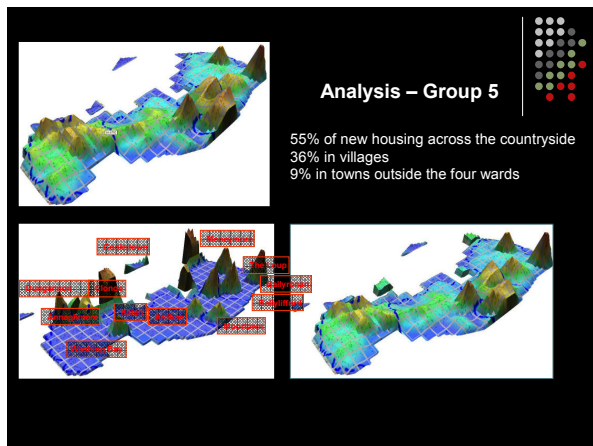
22% of new housing in the countryside, 33% in the villages, 45% in towns outside the four wards



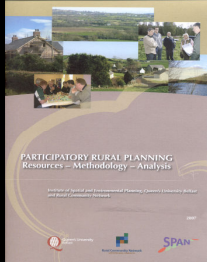
Analysis – Group 4

45% of new housing in the countryside, 27% in the villages, 28% in adjacent towns





YOUR SPAN PORTFOLIO



- 3 data resource booklets
- Video disk on community workshops
- PowerPoint disk with 3 locality datasets
- Paper on locality and community
- Paper on bridging top-down and bottom-up

*PLEASE GIVE US YOUR
FEEDBACK ON THE
APPROACH*

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING