



Planning, Governance and Participation in the Republic of Ireland

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Planning, Governance and Participation



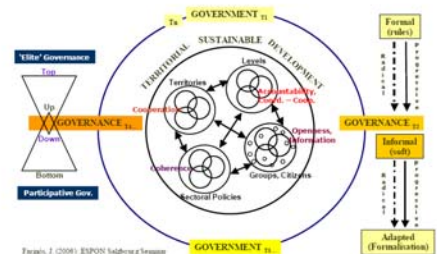
A narrative with three stories:

1. A **background** story
New governance: making plans in a time that promotes public involvement...
2. A story about processes / **issues**
Emerging patterns & effects...
3. A **speculative** story
Some reflections on the the way ahead...

Planning, Governance and Participation

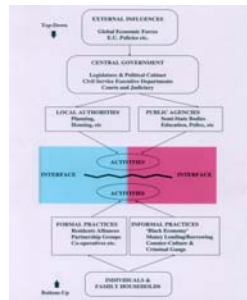
1. A **background** story
New governance: making plans in a time that promotes public involvement...

The Evolution of Governance

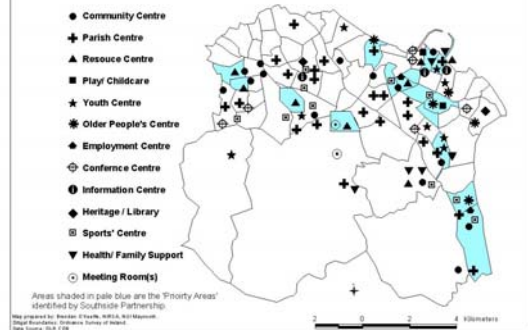


Local Governance in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

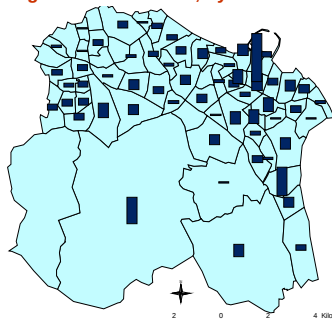
1. Enabling Citizen Participation
2. Role of Southside Partnership – Endogenous Agent
3. Interfacing with Local Government – the County Development Board
4. County and Local Issues
5. Relevance and Linkages to Planning



Community Infrastructure and Facilities in Dún Laoghaire - Rathdown



Number of Groups Affiliated to the Community Forum in Dún Laoghaire – Rathdown, by District in 2006

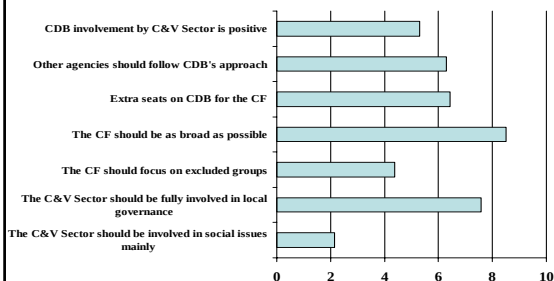


Map prepared by: Brendan O'Keefe, NUJ Maynooth
Digital Boundaries: OSI
Data Source: DLR County Development Board

Inter-Organisational Linkages

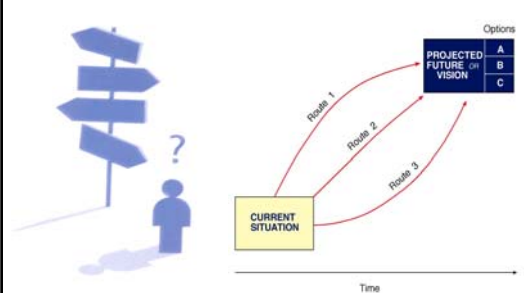
	Representative Fora/Bodies									
	County Council	County Development Board	Southside Partnership	Strategic Policy Committees	Community Forum	Community Platform	County Childcare Committee	Drugs Task Force	RAPID AIT	Community Development Projects
Nomination Bodies										
County Council	x									
County Development Board		x								
Southside Partnership			x							
Strategic Policy Committees				x						
Community Forum					x					
Community Platform						x				
County Childcare Committee							x			
Drugs Task Force								x		
RAPID AIT									x	
Community Development Projects										x
LEGEND										
No representation / No feedback										
has representation and receives feedback										
Some elements have representation										
has representation, but feedback mechanism needs attention										
exclusive categories										

CDB Members Levels of Agreement with Statements about Local Governance in DLR



Members positively disposed towards Partnership and Participative Democracy

What is Planning?

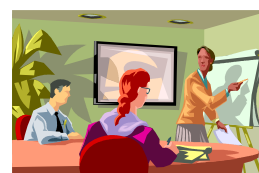


Planning and Participation

	Pre-2000 Act	Post-2000 Act
Making a Development Plan	- Mandatory - Flexible time - Trend plans - Top-down style	- Mandatory - Fixed time - Vision & trend plans - Bottom-up / inclusion
Public Participation	- Provided - Indirect via representatives (elected councillors) - Direct (Draft Plan Display stages) but <u>not</u> pre-draft	- Provided & extended - Indirect via representatives (elected councillors) <u>Elaborated</u>. - Direct (Draft Plan Display stages) <u>and</u> pre-draft

Public Participation Programs are Moving

- FROM:
 - Including everybody
 - Large public meetings/events
 - Involving the public at the end
 - "Being heard" (but without follow through)
- TO:
 - Targeting most interested
 - Small activities and more innovative communications
 - Involving the public at the beginning and throughout process
 - Actively influencing decisions

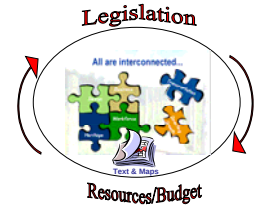


Who Participates?

- Who participates?
 - Those who are allowed to...
 - Those who can participate...
 - Those who wish to...
- Who does not participate?
 - Those who are not allowed to...
 - Those who cannot participate...
 - Those who don't wish to...

In Summary

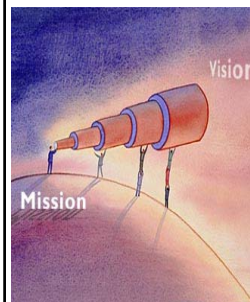
- Huge burden of expectations on 'new' Development Plan
- Planning as new 'management tool' but...
- Responsibility given without devolved budgets / powers
- Heavily dependent upon success of new parallel governance arrangements
- Many key factors outside control of Planning Authority (i.e. external environment)



Planning, Governance and Participation

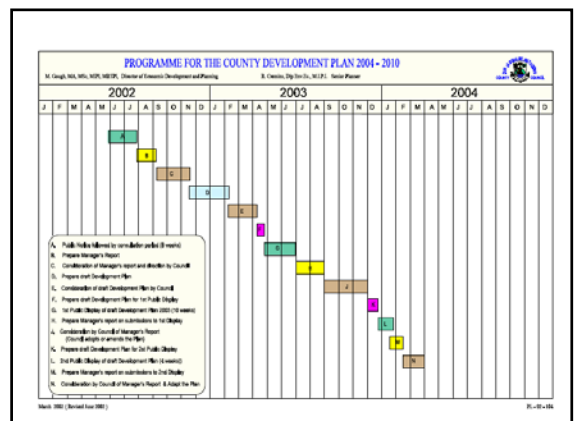
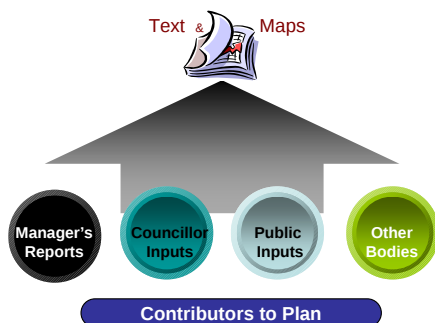
2. A story about **process** & **issues**
Emerging patterns & effects...

DLR Development Plan 2004-10



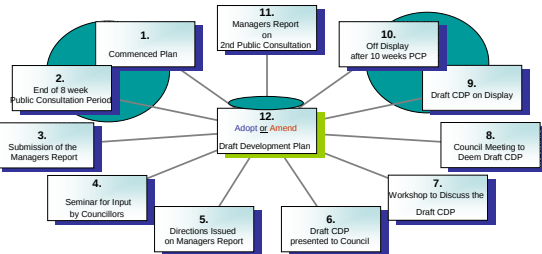
Vision for the County
To plan for and co-ordinate appropriate sustainable development in Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown based on high quality residential, working and recreational environments and sustainable transportation patterns. To create a high-quality physical environment to meet the growing needs of those living, working or visiting the County in a sustainable, inclusive, balanced and integrated way and where communities can thrive in an ecologically, socially and economically sustainable manner.

The Development Plan Process



PLAN PREPARATION PROCESS AND STAGES

Public Consultation Phases (PCP)
1-2 = 8 weeks (Pre-Draft)
9-10 = 10 weeks (Draft)
12 = 4 weeks (if material amendment)



Public Consultation- 3 Rounds



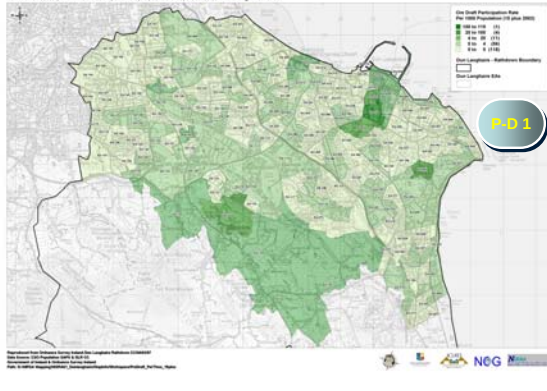
Submissions Received

	Pre Draft	%	Draft	%	Amendments	%
INDIVIDUALS	383	65.7	2098	86	806	68
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS/ COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS	58	10.0	63	2.6	14	1.1
OTHER CLUBS, SOCIETIES, ETC	19	3.3	17	0.7	7	0.6
CONSULTANTS ON BEHALF OF LANDOWNERS/CORPORATE etc	95	16.3	137	5.6	49	4.1
PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES	8	1.3	8	0.3	7	0.6
BY EMAIL	19	3.3	23	0.9	248	20.7
FROM OUTSIDE AREA	1	0.1	82	3.4	59	4.9
Total	583		2428		1190	

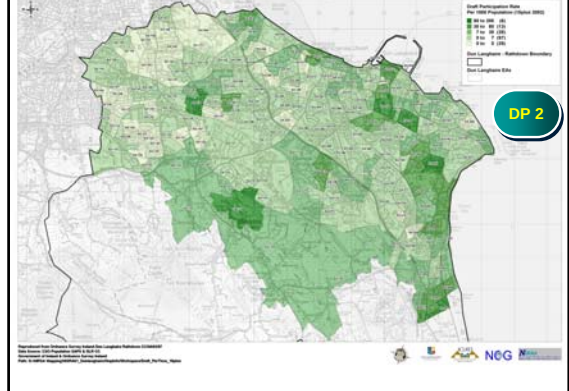
Public Consultation in the DLR Development Plan

Stage	Pre Draft	Draft	Amendments
No. received	583	2428	1190
No. mapped	357	1780	776

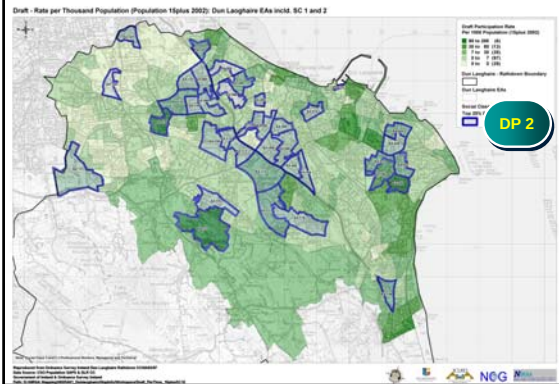
Pre Draft - Rate per Thousand Population (Population 15plus 2002): Dun Laoghaire EAs



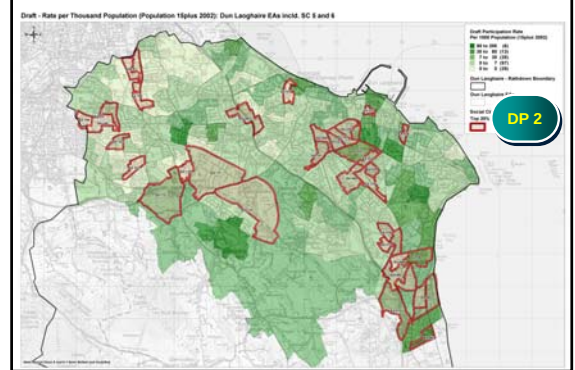
Draft - Rate per Thousand Population (Population 15plus 2002): Dun Laoghaire EAs



Draft Plan: submissions



Draft Plan: submissions

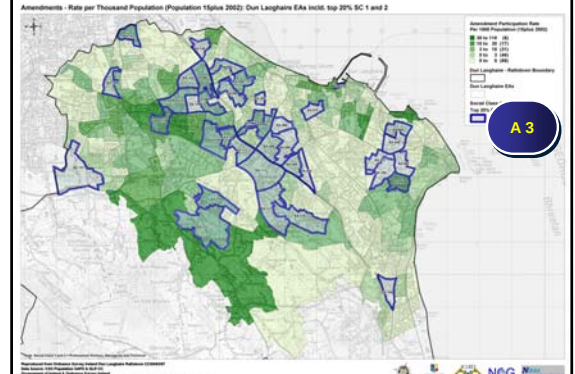


Public Consultation- Round 3

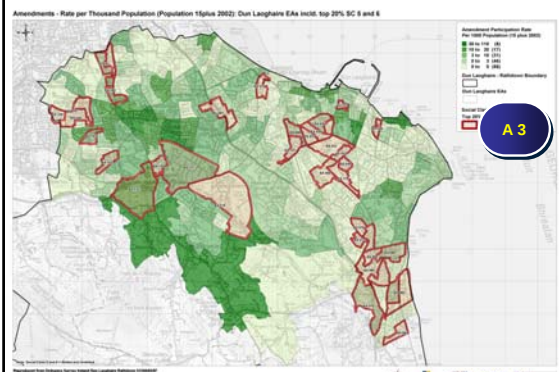
(4 Weeks)



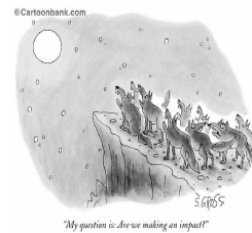
Amendments: submissions



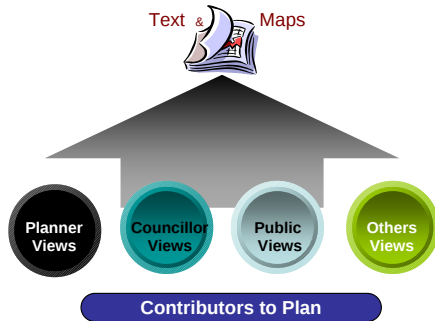
Amendments: submissions



Making an Impact?



Making an Impact?



Consultation in the DLR Development Plan - Summary

- Planners happy with system
 - Needs tweaking only and support from others
- Politicians want more ownership
 - Demand greater ownership of the process
 - Want input at initial (Pre-draft) stage
- Majority of submissions from **individuals**
 - Knowing the system => more acceptance of it
- Voluntary bodies want greater input / support
 - Seek community development model

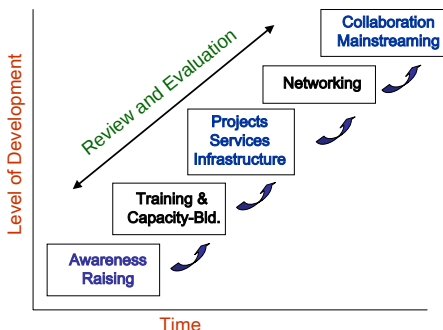
Community Development



Planning, Governance and Participation

3. A forward-looking story
Some interim reflections on the way ahead...

Roles of Southside Partnership - developing social capital



Improving Participation in Planning

- New planning & governance era widens emphasis on participation & promotes bottom-up approach
 - ✓ But direct / active participation is extremely demanding process for planning authority, statutory & voluntary sector agencies and publics
- Willingness to co-operate and 'grow' participation needs to be nurtured and will take time to get right
 - ✓ Many organisations / agencies with support role to 'excluded groups' can help to bridge the gaps
- Strategic thinking, networking skills and flexibility are required of all stakeholders
 - ✓ Tools are most useful when linked to

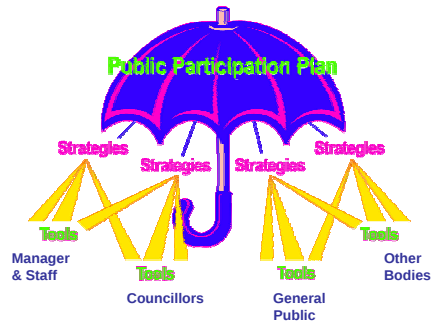
The Way Ahead...



- Utilise network builders
- Use simple toolbox materials



The Way Ahead...



The Way Ahead...

Empower & assist
councillors

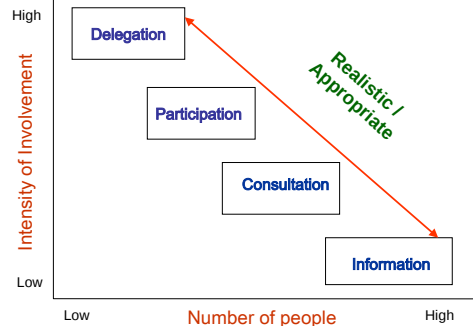
Capitalise on
professional
service supports

Adapt to and improve
existing arrangements

Grow community
capacity to engage

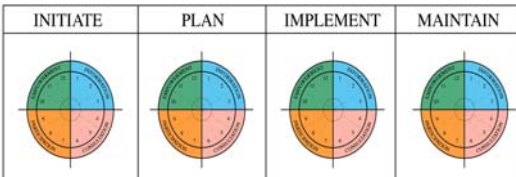
Build skills &
competencies in
support agencies

Levels of Involvement



Involvement has to be agreed...

Don't force communities to participate / be empowered



- Distinguish between types of involvement/appropriate options
- Allow public the option of
 - Opting out, being informed, consulted (others paid to manage these processes – public role is indirect)
 - Participating / taking full responsibility for decisions (direct involvement)

The Way Ahead...

- Ensure **communities** develop & retain a **proactive** role in the plan process
 - Capacity building - incentive
 - Education through demonstration – community development model
- Various **organisations** (including DLR CoCo & SSP) can develop **strategic** approach to working with communities and excluded. This would involve:
 - Pushing the need to be involved both directly **and** indirectly
 - Use and build on available arrangements, especially the existing councillors in role as participant 'representatives' of publics
 - Addressing the broader needs of community development including 'capacity/desire to participate' issues
 - Build up the ability of non-planning agencies to make effective early and continuous inputs to development plans for and with communities (e.g. own planning staff and training; closer working with councillors, pre-draft inputs...)
 - Highlight 'success stories' to facilitate buy-in from publics
- Seek more / improved **inputs** from **external** agencies / planning bodies
 - Regional guideline indicators and useful planning data; refined legislation