

ENGAGE – ‘Planning for Real’ Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton, West Midlands



Whitmore Reans in Partnership (WRiP) is a community network located in the city of Wolverhampton, in the West Midlands. WRiP acts to promote and support community organisations, and is the main representative body involved in strategic decision making for this area.

Whitmore Reans had been identified as an area of high deprivation, and as a result is home to one of Wolverhampton's 8 Neighbourhood Management Teams. WRIP and the Neighbourhood Management Team now act as a co-ordinated body.

We delivered a series of detailed training workshops giving the group the skills and confidence to carry out their process effectively. Following this training a large scale consultation exercise using "Planning for Real"® was undertaken in order to get a clear indication of local needs and priorities. The information that came out of the process was later used in the development of the Local Action Plan for the Dunstall and Whitmore Reans area.

Volunteers and Officers put in a tremendous amount of time and effort in preparing for the consultation and as a result the "Planning for Real"® event was a huge success. Over 1500 suggestions were placed on the 3D model by local people and many other agencies attended and carried out their own additional consultation.

A number of local schools also participated and over 2000 ideas or issues were identified by young people and further consultation has been carried out with young people from the area.

Local people then took part in prioritising the information gathered at the consultation event. Attendance was again good and there was a clear sense of ownership by the community in what needed to be done.

The Whitmore Reans Local Action Plan is a precise and detailed tool which focuses on real issues, priorities and actions. The plan lists actions that will be undertaken, the agency or service provider involved and time scales. Local people can see that the information is transparent and focused on their priorities.