

## **Ramsey, Huntingdonshire. Community Consultation**

### **Project description**

The initial focus of the consultation was the development of a community centre and associated development land on a brown field site in a neighbourhood of Ramsey, Huntingdonshire (but also considering the potential in the context of existing facilities throughout Ramsey) with an emphasis on engaging young people. The project was widened-out at the request of key agencies and included more extensive consultation with residents in terms of age-ranges and geographical coverage.

### **Outputs & Outcomes**

“Planning for Real<sup>®</sup>”<sup>1</sup> was the principal tool used in the community consultation process which involved personnel from a range of agencies, as well as residents, undertaking training and other roles in its delivery.

With regard to *young people’s issues*, a total of **746** ‘issue cards’ were placed on the 3-D model by young people at events specifically intended for them to have a real say in what their priorities are. Most of these cards related to activities they wanted to take part in and places they could go to or be with their peer groups.

These included:

<b>Idea / Issue</b>	<b>No. of responses</b>
Kart track	47
Transport	42
Bowling alley	41
Ice Rink	38
Discos / night clubs for young	35
Fast food outlet	34
Games arcade	32
Activity world	29
Somewhere to see good films	28
Café – young people friendly	25
Skate Park	23

At similar events held for older residents, the issues raised were much broader. However, there was a high-level of concern amongst older people about the lack of facilities for young people and children and suggested a range of solutions, including the need for a Youth Club.

In addition, older residents identified incidents of anti-social behaviour associated with young people and measures to mitigate this - including

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<sup>1</sup> Planning for Real is a registered trademark of The Neighbourhood Initiatives Foundation

alternative activities for young people, a more visible police presence and security cameras / lighting.

Broadening the consultation process (both geographically and by age-range) arguably overwhelmed the original focus on young people within a particular neighbourhood. However, there is an increasing inevitability that neighbourhood-based approaches must link with wider considerations and partnership arrangements. As the number of participants increase, particularly from different agencies, there is a need to ensure effective post-consultation communication, particularly with the young people.