

The logo for BDOR is located in the top right corner. It consists of the letters "BDOR" in a white, bold, sans-serif font. The text is set against a background that is split horizontally: the top half is grey and the bottom half is orange.

BDOR

Jeff Bishop

Duty
to
Involve

don't hold your breath!

Duty to Involve ... don't hold your breath!

We've been there before, before, before

1960s: "Participatory Design", Advocacy Planning

1970s: "Participation in Planning", "Community Architecture",
"Urban Studies"

1980s: "Community Technical Aid", "Percent for Participation",
(thanks to RF)

1990s: Thatcher's legacy but ... "Community Involvement"

2000s: "Engagement", "Empowerment", SCIs, etc

Duty to Involve ... don't hold your breath!

Key Question

“Will the Duty to Involve make any real difference?”

And the First Answer is:

“What Duty to Involve?”

Duty to Involve ... don't hold your breath!

What Duty to Involve?

“It's something that Corporate lot do, isn't it?”

“Isn't it something about CAA and BV?”

“It's about services and budgets, yes?”

“Our PR people deal with that”

“It's nothing to do with planning and regeneration, I think”

“Certainly not design ... and we don't do that any more anyway

Duty to Involve ... don't hold your breath!

What is the Duty?

It is in fact a:

- Duty to Inform
- Duty to Consult
- Duty to (perhaps) Involve

It is not a:

- Duty to Engage
- Duty to Empower
- Duty to Delegate

(though these come in elsewhere - as will be seen)

Duty to Involve ... don't hold your breath!

How do we Know it's Working?

One key indicator of “more cohesive, empowered and active communities” is:

“The percentage of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality”.

(And this should rise year on year)

Duty to Involve ... don't hold your breath!

Other 'Sticks and Carrots'

- Communities in Control (lots of goodies there)
- Engagement Strategies (another "don't hold your breath")
- Neighbourhood Policing procedures (variable)
- Involvement in Health (interesting stuff happening)
- Capacity Building - eg: EA and DEFRA but not DCLG! Some LAs

Duty to Involve ... don't hold your breath!

A far too typical SCI

“The Council encourages pre-application discussions. These discussions may vary from a short chat with a staff member from the Council’s Development Control team over a household extension, or a series of meetings with various Council departments over a large-scale development proposal.”

Duty to Involve ... don't hold your breath!

Preparing the Professionals?

Surveying:

Uh?

Planning:

Two courses with anything on involvement in core material

Architecture:

Either no response or “what a load of rubbish”! (1 exception!)

(Quick check for second project in 2002 - not much better!)

Duty to Involve ... don't hold your breath!

So ...

Duty to Involve is of little value in its own right

But of real value when combined with ...

- Enforcement through the indicator, etc
- Statements of Community Involvement
- Engagement Strategies
- Communities in Control
- Capacity Building
- Community-led Planning
- Better initial professional education