

Creative Engagement – a Simple Exercise in Community Planning

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Synopsis

This exercise uses a hands-on process to engage students in developing a vision for an area or project. A simple toolkit leads students through the process of developing ideas for the plan. It has been used in teaching post-graduate and under-graduates in planning, urban regeneration and geography. It helps students learn community involvement skills. This exercise has evolved in response to the need to enhance skills in participatory planning, and to encourage students from all disciplines to think of how they might involve stakeholders and community members in developing plans and projects.

It can be used as a simple, quick exercise (in flat teaching space or tiered lecture halls), and can be expanded to enhance reflective awareness of students' future role as practitioners. Used as a simple role play, the exercise enhances students' awareness of diversity and different view points. The exercise has also been used to introduce the concept of planning for sustainability.