











- A case of Lancaster City Council

DEVELOPING CREATIVE TOOLS FOR FACILITATING CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT IN THE PLANNING OF PUBLIC SPACES

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01 Project plan

Background / Aim and objectives

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References





- ✓ Creative tools for public space design
- ✓ New era of citizen-led planning for great places in the city

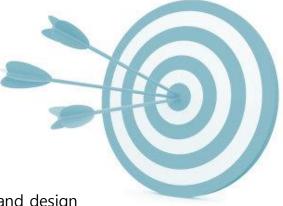
[&]quot;Design knowledge is transferred into design tools that allow for a better articulation and resolution of the clients' real needs in the design process" (Lee, 2008:39)

Aim:

design creative tools to help Lancaster City Council facilitate citizen engagement in the planning of public spaces.

Objectives:

- To determine Lancaster City Council's needs when developing local public areas
- To explore how Lancaster City Council can communicate with citizens to attract their attention and identify their needs in public spaces
- To develop effective tools for producing better plans of public spaces



The importance of the techniques for facilitating public participation in planning and design (Al-Kodmany, 1999; Lee, 2006; Dede, Dikmen and Ayten, 2012; Sanoff, 2008)

Research process Literature review Field research Research findings



01 Literature review

DESK RESEARCH



02 Non-participant observation

14th May Public consultation event 03 Interview

24th ~25th May face-to-face or e-mail

04 Survey

10th June~ 3rd July on-line/ offline questionnaires CITIZENS



05 Desk research

8th May ~ 14th July Desk research 06 Interview

18th June / 3rd, 11th July Three experts of 'Beyond the Castle' CASE STUDY Beyond the Castle'



07 Shadowing/Interview 08 Brainstorming

14th June / 17th July Public Realm Officer 9th July / 13th July Council officers 09 Non-participant observation

9th July / 13th July Public consultation event for Happy Mount Park **COUNCIL**

"Prototype"



10 Validation

13th August Expert of 'Beyond the Castle' FINAL SOLUTION

Mixed-methods research "provide more comprehensive and persuasive evidence for studying a research problem than either quantitative or qualitative research alone", and "solve problems using both numbers and words" (Creswell and Clark, 2007:9-10)

Public spaces in urban design

Public space

an essential factor in urban design, valuable for the social life of people (Banerjee, 2001) (Rapoport, 1977 in Viña, 2010; Worpole and Knox, 2007)

However, public spaces have been insulated from the public

(Banerjee, 2001; Aurigi and Graham, 1997; Groth and Corijn, 2005; Lehtovuori, 2010)

Public participation

Public space design is produced from a humane-scale perspective (Sanoff, 2008; Dede, et al., 2012)

Methods for public participation to support human interactions

between the various participants in public spaces

(Viña, 2010; Wagner, et al., 2009; Kraff and Jernsand, 2013; Hagenaars and Huybrechts, 2013).



Creative facilitation

For the more practical process, several movements toward more creative facilitation

(Fisher, 2003; Tippett and Connelly, 2011; Cruickshank and Evans, 2012; Carolan and Cruickshank, 2011; Cruickshank, Whitham and Morris, 2012)



Creative tools for knowledge exchange

Knowledge exchange is contributing to a collaborative, productive or creative process (Cruickshank, Whitham and Morris, 2012).

Creative tools can help people think creative and innovative ideas

(Tippett and Connelly, 2011)

1. Citizens



Non-participant observation

(the public consultation event)

Direct observation:

Offering information of event Event settings Communication methods during event

25 participants among 50 expressed their views.



1. Citizens



Interview

(three participants)

Face-to-face or email interview:

Their opinions about public consultation events The needs for new methods

- Everyone's ideas would be given consideration. The political situation in UK, with first-past-the-post government tends to exclude ideas which do not come from the ruling group.
 - citizen 2
- " I know several methods for encouraging people to create ideas in planning public spaces; they are useful to attract people. "
 - Citizen 1



1. Citizens



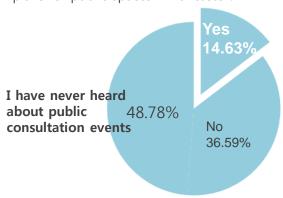
Survey

(48 citizens of Lancaster)

On-line and offline questionnaires:

People's experience of public consultation for public spaces and opinions about new tools of public consultation

- Have you ever taken part in consultation events on plans for public spaces in Lancaster?



- What would encourage you to participate in the public consultation events?



- For effective public consultation 70.73% visual tools

- For bringing out ideas 60.98% sharing others' ideas



2. Case study



Desk research & Interview

(creative tools and three experts of 'Beyond the Castle')

Beyond the Castle



wooden icons / washing line

Just Imagine Stories The 2-1



detailed map

Park Just Imagine the o Shape the



clay model

Interactive

4.

"The physical tools helped to open up people's imagination, provided a practical opportunity of involving in planning public spaces.

- expert 3





labeled with stickers



co-design system

3. Council officer





Shadowing

(Public Realm Officer)

Shadowing an officer meeting:

Council officers' needs of tools when developing local public areas

- ...different techniques which were used at the university are very interesting...Without the tools, people are just sitting and talking...It has to be quick and clear...
 - Public Realm Officer

people want to talk, but the officers are busy.

We need tools in public consultation events:

- To attract people in events, and stimulate their interest
- To get intensive understanding (information)
- To get quick response
- To make people understanding about the event quickly

Research Findings

Field research & literature review





- Low participation rate in public consultation events
- fun activities with visual tools to attract them into the process of planning

Visual and fun tools:

(Al-Kodmany, 1999; Ketso, 2012; Tippett and Connelly, 2011)





- Several creative tools help people attract and generate good ideas for the park
- Physical tools can enable the Council to obtain valuable information from the public.

Creative facilitation: explorative and creative processes (Christiansen and Bunt, 2012)





- Difficult to obtain quick and clear information from the public

A human interaction approach: People can share their knowledge (Desouza, 2003a; Desouza, 2003b; Cruickshank, Whitham and Morris, 2012).



Creative tools for the exchange of knowledge between citizens and council officers in public consultation events

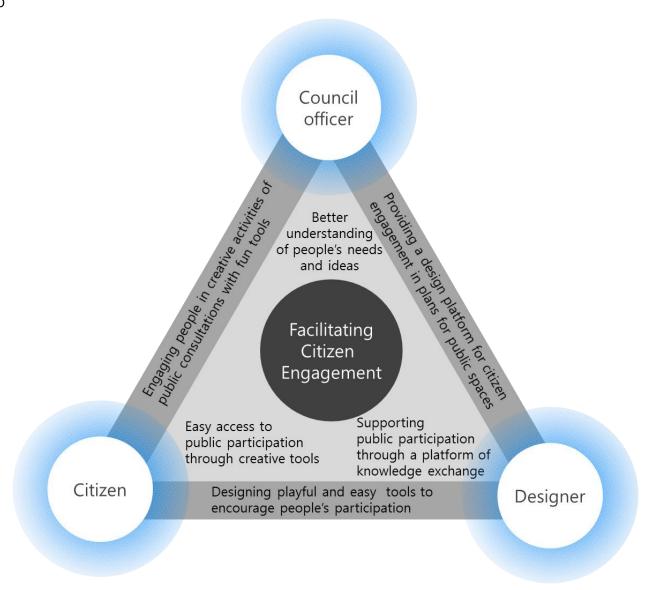
Knowledge exchange can attract various stakeholders with different backgrounds to solve problems, especially specific problems such as the development of a public space (Cruickshank, Whitham and Morris, 2012)

Design opportunities Design process Design aim and crite Final solutions

Design opportunities Design aim and criteria

Design opportunities

Opportunity map



Design process

Brainstorming & non-participant observation

Public consultation event in Happy Mount Park





the washing line definitely created interest and showed that there was an event going on. The hexagons were more difficult, perhaps difficult to see..., so the hexagons seamed limited and we may need to proving ideas or direct them better in future to get useful information and suggestions for the future on the park.

... need to move visual, exiting activity focus on the outcome required and how that can be achieved better - examples, better questions, different consultation format...

(Public Realm Officer, interview, 17.07.2013)

The tools of "Beyond the Castle"

Washing line Wooden icon Hexagon tool







Design aim and criteria

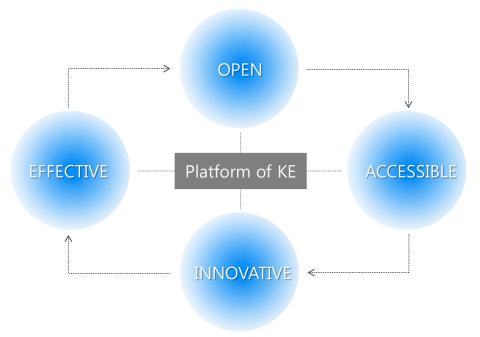
Design aim:

Council can elicit quick responses and clear comments from a wider range of people by the use of new forms of tools: "a form of interaction" and a new platform of Knowledge Exchange for helping Lancaster Council "to design their own knowledge exchange approaches based on a framework of tools" (Cruickshank, Whitham and Morris, 2012:453)

Design principles:

People are usually the experts in their own lives, and can solve a problem in their own ways. (Lee, 2006; Siu, 2003; Sanoff, 2002)

With visual techniques, citizens could understand the concepts of public participation and are able to express informed opinions. (Al-Kodmany, 1999; King, et al., 1989).



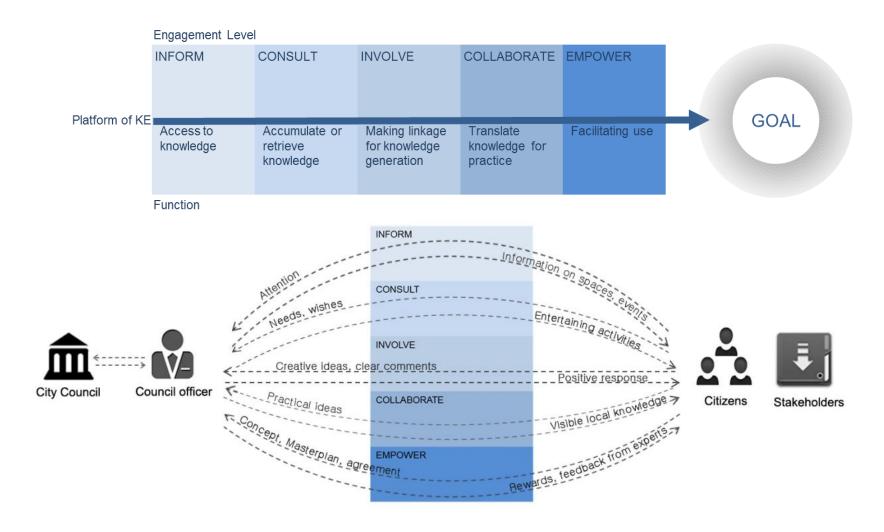
The process of the public consultation event should be easy to follow. (Tippett and Connelly, 2011)

Tools allow people to see the world around them from different perspectives and to generate good ideas. (Ketso, 2012)

Design aim and criteria

Functions

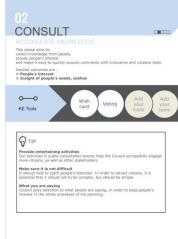
Levels of citizen engagement - inform, consult, involve, collaborate, empower (Carson, 2008; Good Practice Participate, 2011)



Final solution

Platform for knowledge exchange





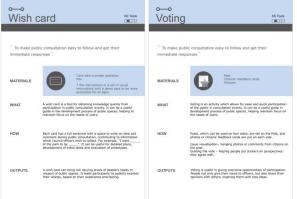










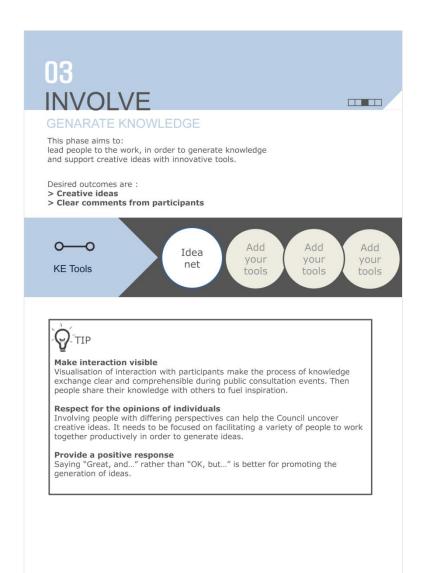






Final solution

Platform for knowledge exchange



⊶ Idea net

KE Tools

 $^{\mbox{\tiny{11}}}$ To stimulate citizens' creative ideas of public spaces and look for inspiration for better plan $^{\prime\prime}$

MATERIALS



Wooden frame Cobweb net Photos or information card Feedback card

* a visual example of what it means and what people are being asked to do

WHAT

An idea net is a tool to visually display information and people's ideas in the area of public consultation events. It allows people easy access to public participation and concentration on issues which the Council wants to deal with.

HOW

Information is located at the centre of a net, detailing the issue which the Council intends to focus on. Participants' comments related to this issue are arranged in a radial pattern.

Visual topic– setting topics up in the middle of the net. Link – collecting comments linked to the topic.

OUTPUTS

The idea net is valuable for generating ideas from participants in public consultation events. People express their convergent views on given issues. It may result in a large volume of local knowledge on a particular topic.

The core value:

a platform for effective knowledge exchange in order to improve the information flow between council officers and citizens during public consultation events.

- · attract people in the process of planning for public spaces
- · quickly obtain the necessary information from the public

The limitations:

1. Some people are reluctant to reveal their knowledge openly.

Council officers need some time to guide the public to consider their knowledge as "a public good" (Wasko and Fara, 2000:155); not only can it be shared openly and managed by a community, but also can produce new knowledge when people interact with others who have their own knowledge. (Kogut and Zander, 1992)

2. Communication systems have to support it. (Boland and Tenkasi, 1995)

The flow of knowledge can be stimulated by communication systems that support the respective needs of separate groups. (Boland and Tenkasi, 1995)

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