

Community Planning:

Opportunities and Challenges

Jeff Bishop
BDOR Ltd

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Community Planning: Opportunities and Challenges

There is apparently an old Chinese curse:

"May you live in interesting times"

In terms of Community Planning, life is indeed 'interesting'!

And the jury's out on whether 'interesting' means ...

exciting, challenging, positive or

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My task is to set you on the way today, and hopefully towards the 'exciting, challenging, positive' end

To do that I'll cover:

- ⌘ Scene-setting
- ⌘ Opportunities (some may be challenges)
- ⌘ Challenges (some may be opportunities)
- ⌘ Some glimpses ahead
- ⌘ A Key Theme

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Scene Setting

We hopefully won't hear this again:

"It's just a wish list"

"Unless we get it adopted, we'll struggle to make it stick"

"Our priority is on the RSS, not community ideas"

"We're the only people who understand our place"

"But this plan is full of things we can't control"

"We can't make head nor tail of LDF, DPD, AAP"

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Opportunities 1

Other than planning:

- ⌘ New breed of LSPs
- ⌘ Sustainable Community Strategies
- ⌘ Compacts
- ⌘ Local Area Agreements
- ⌘ Quality Parish Councils
- ⌘ 'Neighbourhoods Matter', etc.

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Opportunities 2

Within planning:

- ⌘ Spatial planning
- ⌘ Requirements to consult and SCIs
- ⌘ Planning Delivery Grant
- ⌘ Sustainability Appraisal?!
- ⌘ Planning Aid
- ⌘ "S106"

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Challenges

- ⌘ Does Government mean it?
- ⌘ More delegation of things that matter less?
- ⌘ Increased complexity of planning
- ⌘ Loss of Countryside Agency?
- ⌘ Giving SCSs real clout (cf. planning)
- ⌘ Volunteer time
- ⌘ Planner training, skills, resources

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Some Glimpses Ahead 1

- ⌘ Community Plans as 'Local Sustainable Community Strategies'
- ⌘ That means top-down agenda and bottom-up agenda
- ⌘ Community Plans promoted and funded by/via LSP/LAA
- ⌘ Conditional support: partnership preparation and implementation
- ⌘ 'Day One' (and follow-up) contact between community and 'enabler'
- ⌘ Negotiated scope - 'protocols' to agree professional input

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Some Glimpses Ahead 2

- ⌘ Planning input agreed (in general at outset)
- ⌘ 'Adoption' only one possible route
- ⌘ Joint work on any Sustainability Appraisal
- ⌘ Links between main policies and Community Plans
- ⌘ Use of involvement procedures on applications
- ⌘ Creative use of S106
- ⌘ Things like Village Design Statements still used

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One Key Theme 1

Into the dustbin of history (should) go:

- ⌘ Top-down vs Bottom-up
- ⌘ Professional vs Lay-person
- ⌘ Silo thinking
- ⌘ Belief that one person/group can 'do' anything
- ⌘ Win/lose, either/or thinking



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One Key Theme 2

The key building blocks of a positive future must be:

- ⌘ Constant search for win/win and added value
- ⌘ Core focus on genuine engagement
- ⌘ Proactive partnership
- ⌘ Collaborative working as the norm

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Presented by
Jeff Bishop

BDOR Ltd
12 St Thomas Street
BRISTOL
BS1 6JJ
info@bdor.co.uk
0117 9105200

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