How can technology help to support virtual participation?

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Planning
Urban Design
Architecture
Innovation
Session Line-up

1. Instant Polling

2. Virtual and Digital Tools Presentation

3. Q&A

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“Technology is the answer. But what was the question?”

*Cedric Price, 1965*
Are these groups difficult to reach for engagement?

- Younger People
- Persons experiencing homelessness
- Gypsies and Travellers
- Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic Communities
- Those with physical, mental, or communication impairments/disabilities
- Older People
- LGBTQ+ Persons
- Women

Options: Yes, No

Percentage of those who find these groups difficult to reach for engagement.
Approaches Used for Community Engagement

- Presentations
- Public Drop in Sessions
- Social Media
- Workshops
- Newsletters
- Public Surveys
- Tech
- Focus Groups

[Bar chart showing the usage of each approach: Presentations, Public Drop in Sessions, Social Media, Workshops, Newsletters, Public Surveys, Tech, Focus Groups. Each bar has a section marked 'Yes' in grey and 'No' in yellow.]

- Yes
- No
Spaces used for Engagement

- Public Space (Street/Park, etc.): 60%
- School: 60%
- Local Authority Offices: 70%
- Town or Village Hall: 60%
- Shops/Supermarket: 20%
- Pub: 20%
- Community Centre: 90%
- Online: 80%
Findings

• Purpose of Engagement is **informative** rather than **collaborative**.

• Widespread agreement that planning tools have not kept up with digital technology.

• Much budget / focus for community engagement is spent on **statutory engagement methods** which are seen as **outdated** and ineffective.
SLEDGEHAMMER TO CRACK A NUT?
THE NUT HAMMER
WHY SIMPLY REPLICATE INEFFECTIVE ENGAGEMENT USING VIRTUAL TOOLS?

“To what extent could remote collaboration through digital technology could really replace the real face-to-face interaction and people's dependency on spaces?”
TROY PLANNING + DESIGN CASE STUDY

1. PROJECT BRIEF AGREED AND INSTRUCTED IN MARCH 2020 FOR A TOWN CENTRE VISION TO 2035 INVOLVING HEAVY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2. COVID-19 LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS MID MARCH 2020

3. COMPLETE REDESIGN OF THE PROJECT AND OUR APPROACH
TROY PLANNING + DESIGN CASE STUDY
VIRTUAL TOWN TOUR
TROY PLANNING + DESIGN CASE STUDY

GOOGLE IS GOOD BUT NOT THAT GOOD
DRONE FILMING

Video Tour

Watch in Full Screen
TROY PLANNING + DESIGN CASE STUDY
CREATED WEBSITE FOR CLIENT AS DIGITAL HUB
18. In your view, which areas of the Town Centre would most benefit from improvement and investment? Please rank (refer to the map below, also available on this link).

DAVENTRY TOWN CENTRE VISION 2035

A - North West of Daventry Town Centre
B - North of Daventry Town Centre
C - Retail Park, iCon and DDC Offices
D - Primrose Hill and North Street residential
E - Library & St Johns Square
F - Leisure Centre
G - Parking and Cinema (under construction)
H - The High Street & Bishop’s Court
I - New Street: Daventry Town Council and Museum
J - Market Square & Holy Cross Church
K - Vicar Lane Retail Area and Residential
L - Sheaf Street retail and parking area
M - Bowen Square, Bus station and New Street retail and parking areas
N - New Street Recreation and Police Station Court
TROY PLANNING + DESIGN CASE STUDY
LEAFLET TO EVERY HOUSEHOLD
TROY PLANNING + DESIGN CASE STUDY
NEXT STEPS – 3 VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS
USEFUL TOOLS FOR ENGAGEMENT
How can virtual design workshops be more interactive, less passive and more collaborative?

What happens when not all stakeholders are ready to receive the technology?
INTERACTIVE CITY MODEL

CLICK ON BUILDINGS FOR
PLANNING APPLICATION INFORMATION
Building Interactive Virtual Models

- It should be integrated better in the local context
- What are the other development options, if any?
- Architect here, the density looks slightly inadequate in my opinion.
- I work in the area and I confirm the traffic can be quite busy at noon.
Precedent images: building typologies
INDICATIVE CONCEPT
How can we make it intuitive and meaningful?

Current: STATIC PLANS
Over 600 Pages
Mostly Text
Interactive Infrastructure Plans
Interactive Scenario Planning
Questions:

The participation ladder is a clear, simple approach to public participation. In reality, we find that at the end of the journey, an advisory agency dares to come up with new pathways that undermine the entire process. The rules of the game, very important!

How to incorporate virtual planning in planning education and developing a more participatory approach?

How to make virtual participation empathic throughout the all e-process?
Questions:

Hailing from India where a significant percentage of population is not literate, I was wondering how can we as planner/urban managers try and find ways to virtually include them in the planning process keeping in mind their limitations?

How to combine virtual and face-to-face public participation

How to attract more citizens to take part in virtual public participatory meetings?

How to make these virtual platform available for every citizen?
Questions:

Infrastructure needed to enable virtual planning platforms

Access to technology and enablers for the developing world
Please get in touch!
thayes@troyplanning.com
lielden@troyplanning.com

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professional

troyplanning.com