



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN

CARDIFF UNIVERSITY
CARDIFF COUNCIL
PRIVILEGE CAFE
ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY (ACE)
GRANGE PAVILION CIO AND GRANGE PAVILION YOUTH FORUM
SPLOTT COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS
COMMON WEALTH
PLANNING AID WALES

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS

A collaboration between:

Cardiff University

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Image: Richard Powell

Introduction

Community Engagement in Local Development Plans is a research collaboration between Cardiff University, Privilege Café, Cardiff Council, Action in Caerau and Ely (ACE), Grange Pavilion CIO and Grange Pavilion Youth Forum, Splott Community Volunteers, Common Wealth and Planning Aid Wales.

The year-long project (November 2023-2024) aims to increase Cardiff residents' awareness of and involvement in Cardiff Council's Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP). The LDP defines priorities for use of land in Cardiff, impacting where housing, employment, transport, and leisure will be located. Cardiff Council's June 2023 publication of its 'Preferred Strategy' for the LDP committed to reducing inequalities across Cardiff with a focus on Cardiff's 'southern arc' – the south side of Cardiff from Ely and Caerau in the West to St Mellons in the East.

Our research team of academics, architects, urban planners, council representatives, and community activists and organisations located in the Southern Arc agreed that very few residents know how to contribute to Local Development Plan consultations or are aware of how their input could affect the future of their own local areas. Through this project, we aimed to share knowledge about the LDP process, knowledge about our local areas, and knowledge of how to engage.

We reached out to other individuals and organisations across Cardiff and Wales to explore how forming a Local Development Plan Advisory Network could support this.

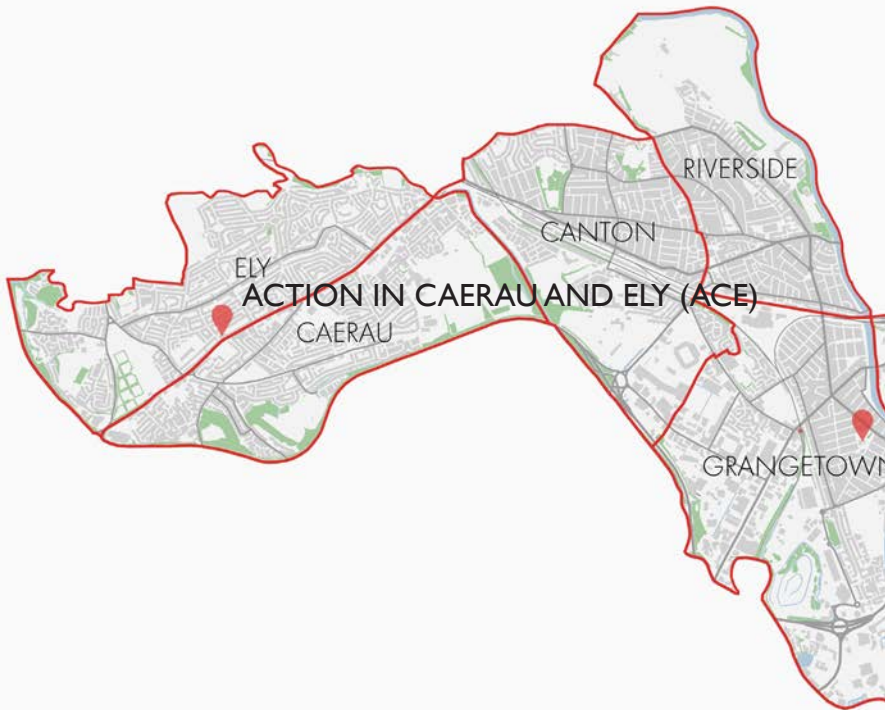
We funded four community organisations located in Cardiff's Southern Arc to lead 'engagement actions' to inform community involvement in the LDP.

These 'engagement actions' were not a formal part of Cardiff Council's LDP consultations, but ran as a parallel experimental space, trusting each community organisation to propose their own methods for bringing people together to talk about priorities, visions and values for the future of their local areas.

This booklet is a summary of this collaboration and the engagement actions which took place in September 2024.

'Large inequalities exist within the city with deprivation in terms of housing, physical environment, employment, income, educational achievements and health generally concentrated in the 'southern arc' – an area stretching from Ely in the west to St Mellons in the east with a population of around 155,000 people. The Replacement LDP will need to provide a policy framework that reduces inequalities across the city over the plan period to 2036.'

Cardiff Replacement Local Development Plan
Preferred Strategy for Consultation, Cardiff Council, June 2023, p.13.



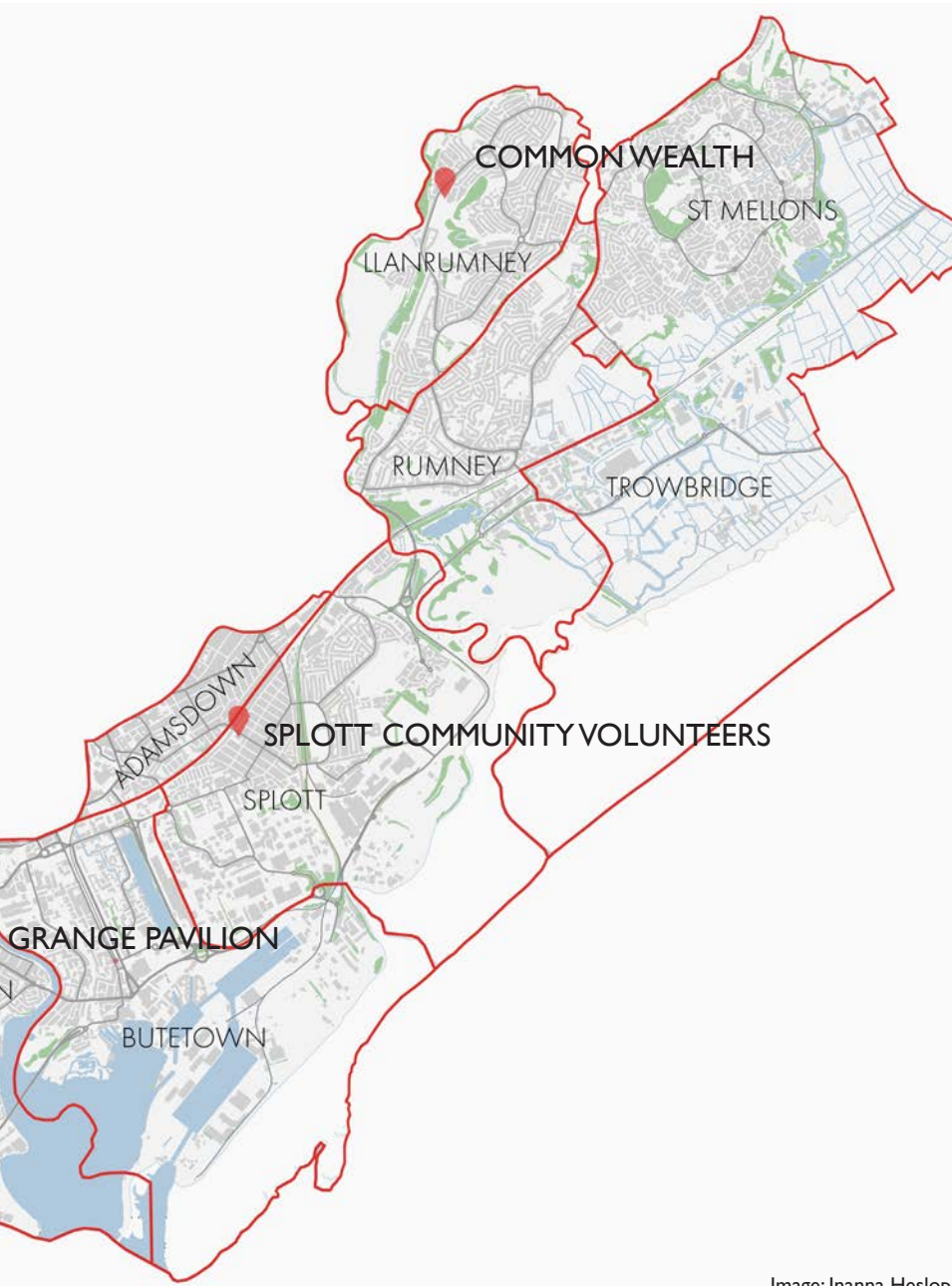


Image: Inanna Heslop



The planning system in Wales

The planning system in Wales provides opportunities for the public to shape the future of their towns, cities, and communities. The planning system manages land use and the development of land and buildings in the public interest.

The planning system is also an important framework for delivering sustainable development. The *Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015* requires the planning system to operate within the principles of sustainable development.

Planning connects with a very wide range of themes and topics that influence the places where we live – from transport and movement, housing, and green spaces, to employment, environmental protection, and recreation and leisure. The planning system is therefore an important way of managing the many demands and pressures on how we use land and buildings.

There are two main activities in the planning system where the public can get involved – making plans at different scales, and when decisions are made on proposals for new development.

Plans are made at national, regional, and local scales. There are formal opportunities for consultation or engagement in plan-making at each scale. The public and local communities usually get more involved in plan-making at the local level and when they can see how development may impact on the places where they live.

Plans can be a valuable way of setting out a future vision for an area and designing planning policies to help shape future development. Plans are also important when deciding planning applications when an individual or developer wants to develop land.

Communities, organisations and individuals wanting to shape their local area can therefore get involved at plan-making stage and when planning applications are submitted.



LOST MARY
Life's Merry!

Sustainable Sourcing
Our short supply chain reduces our environmental footprint & ensures our ingredients arrive faster and fresher to your door.

HELLO FRESH

Dinner is solved

HELLO FRESH
Dinner is solved

TANGY CHEESE
70g e

Local Development Plans

Planning at local level in Wales is carried out by ‘local planning authorities’. There are 25 local planning authorities across Wales - three of these are National Park Authorities and the rest are local authorities or councils. The local planning authority for Cardiff, for example, is Cardiff Council.

Every local planning authority has a duty to prepare a Local Development Plan. A Local Development Plan is a tool for setting out a vision for the local area, how the area will change, and the area’s development needs into the future. Most local planning authorities in Wales have a Local Development Plan and are involved in updating or replacing a plan. Local Development Plans look forward over a period of 10-15 years.

Local Development Plans need to be based on evidence and provide opportunity for community engagement and consultation. Local Development Plans need to consider a wide range of policies, including the planning policies of Welsh Government.

Local Development Plan preparation involves several stages and regularly takes several years from start to finish. There are opportunities for participation, engagement and consultation at each stage. Every local planning authority has a Delivery Agreement setting out the timetable for making the plan and how and when the public will be involved.

The content of a Local Development Plan will vary between each local planning authority. A Local Development Plan will include a strategy for future development of the area, a series of strategic and detailed planning policies, as well as site allocations for new development illustrated on a map.

A Local Development Plan when it is ‘adopted’ will be one of the most important factors in shaping decisions on planning applications.

Place Plans

Place Plans are localised and less formal plans that can be initiated by the local community. Place Plans are prepared voluntarily when they support the delivery of policies in the Local Development Plan, help communities to express local planning issues, and promote the delivery of placemaking activities.

A Place Plan can be prepared as part of the evidence base for a Local Development Plan, in parallel with the Local Development Plan, or after adoption of the Local Development Plan.

A Place Plan is a way for the community to express the local planning issues that are important to the community, as well as contribute local knowledge to the elaboration and delivery of the Local Development Plan. A Place Plan can also help to guide where and how funds are spent that are required to make new development acceptable.

Place Plans in Wales are not required by law ('non-statutory') but Local planning authorities can adopt a Place Plan as supplementary planning guidance (SPG). This provides some degree of status for a Place Plan, including in deciding planning applications. The Place Plan must be in conformity with the Local Development Plan. It is therefore important for community groups to engage throughout the process. Preparing a Place Plan also requires resources including money, time, and support.

There are examples in Wales where local communities have prepared a Place Plan. Many are in smaller towns and rural communities and have been led by community and town councils. Place Plans can be prepared anywhere, including in urban areas and communities within cities. A local community in an area without a community or town council can prepare a Place Plan in collaboration with the local planning authority.

Research team

Cardiff University

Prof. Mhairi McVicar is academic lead of Cardiff University partnership platform Community Gateway and has developed long term research and teaching partnership projects with individuals and organisations in Grangetown over the last ten years, including the redevelopment of the Grange Pavilion. Mhairi's participatory research methodologies respond to and supports live opportunities and challenges in community development processes.

<https://profiles.cardiff.ac.uk/staff/mcvicarm>

Dr Neil Harris' research focuses on the operation of the statutory planning system, including plan-making and planning at different scales. His work has regularly focused on statutory planning in Wales and Cardiff. Neil has advised Senedd Cymru on the evolution of its new planning framework. Neil has also been engaged in projects on engaging children and young people in plan-making for their communities.

<https://profiles.cardiff.ac.uk/staff/harrisnr>

Dr Neil Turnbull's research addresses the contributions of practices of community engagement at neighbourhood level. This work documents the current constraints of fiscal austerity at local authority level whilst acknowledging the value and role that community can play in helping to identify local issues, give voice and support vulnerable individuals.

<https://profiles.cardiff.ac.uk/staff/turnbullnl>

Mymuna Soleman, The Privilege Café is a virtual and in-person forum founded and grounded on the back of creating a space where voices that have been marginalized and othered for a very long time, are now welcomed and included, respected and listened to. As the founder of the café Mymuna, a Somali-Welsh resident of Butetown, had a sole focus of creating positive dialogue that wasn't part and parcel of talking shops that had no foundation but rather focused on an action-based approach working to highlight privilege and its impacts within society.

<https://theprivilegecafe.com/>

Prior research recommendations

This project emerged from recommendations our team members had developed through previous research into how community consultation in planning and development could be more equitable and enabling.

Community Voices Cardiff (Mhairi McVicar, Mymuna Soleman and Shoruk Nekeb, Welsh School of Architecture, Cardiff University) was located in Cardiff as part of the UK-wide AHRC funded *Community Consultation for Quality of Life* research project led by Prof. Flora Samuel. It ran online and as a physical 'urban room' in the Grange Pavilion, in 2022. Our learnings highlighted the potential of consultation to create opportunities to meet others, exchange ideas, feel part of a community, and create new networks. People recommended that funding be allocated directly to existing community organisations to lead consultation, using their own approaches and knowledge of their local area. <https://www.qolf.org/projects/community-consultation-for-quality-of-life-ccqol/>

Neil Harris's (School of Planning and Geography, Cardiff University) *Grangetown to Grow Up in* (Matluba Khan, Neil Harris, Tom Smith, Shoruk Nekeb) held creative mapping and walking workshops with children and young people in Grangetown to co-create a child-led plan for Grangetown and emphasised the need for engagement to be fun and relatable by using multiple creative methods. <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/stories/building-a-child-friendly-recovery-plan-for-grangetown>

Neil Turnbull's *Community Action in austerity: The case of Community Asset Transfer* identified the politics of collective care and experimentation which enabled communities to take over assets in their communities in response to UK austerity measures through 'hopeful activism'. Mhairi and Neil Turnbull's research with Cardiff University's Community Gateway supported the redevelopment of the Grange Pavilion as a community-led facility under a Community Asset Transfer and identified the potential of residential and organisational partnerships to share resources and expertise.

These core principles –consultation led by community organisations as engaging, fun, social, capacity building, and enabling community action – defined our approach to facilitating community engagement in Local Development Plans.

Partnering organisations

ACE (Action in Caerau and Ely) is a community development organisation in the west of Cardiff. Our aim is to create ‘vibrant, equal and resilient communities for all, where people find fulfilment in themselves, each other, and the place where they live’. We use asset-based community development, co-production and community organising approaches to build on local strengths, tackle poverty and create wellbeing. We run lots of projects including a community centre, heritage centre, affordable food provision, debt and benefit advice, community arts, social prescribing, community growing, training and lots more! <https://www.aceplace.org/>

Common Wealth make site-specific theatre events that encompass electronic sound, new writing, visual design and verbatim. We make work that is relevant and addresses concerns of our times. We seek out places to stage our work that are right in a community; a residential house, a boxing gym, places where people who might not go to the theatre might come to instead – we aim to make theatre for people who don’t usually think it’s for them, we’re bored of theatre being for the middle classes and those that can afford it – we genuinely believe in theatre as an art form and the power it has. We think this should belong to everyone – as audience, participants and as protagonists. <https://commonwealththeatre.co.uk/cardiff/>

Grange Pavilion and Grange Pavilion Youth Forum Our story started over 10 years ago when residents developed a shared vision for a space where all members of their community could come together. A partnership between the Grange Pavilion project, Grangetown Community Action, Cardiff University’s Community Gateway Project and Cardiff Council redeveloped a vacant bowls pavilion into a beautiful community facility with affordable space-for-hire, a community-focused café, outdoor gardening and more. The Youth Forum brings young people together to get involved in and to support activities and events, promoting the Pavilion and forging friendships at the same time. <https://grangepavilion.wales/>

Splott Community Volunteers provides vital services and resources from its base at the STAR Community Centre in Splott, Cardiff, for those in food and fuel poverty. We provide a hot meal and fresh food to take away at our weekly Breakfast Club, run winter warm clubs three times a week during January, February and March, offer energy efficiency and debt management advice through partner organisations, and host cookery and craft sessions, improving quality of life for beneficiaries and supporting the alleviation of poverty, together with generating long-term employment and confidence building opportunities for our volunteers.

<https://splottcommunityvolunteers.co.uk/>

Cardiff Council

Simon Gilbert is Head of Planning at Cardiff Council and has worked across Planning Policy, Conservation, City Centre Regeneration and Development Management. Simon has been at the forefront of all major development in Cardiff for almost 30 years, overseeing the ongoing regeneration of Cardiff Bay and bringing Placemaking to the heart of city planning, ensuring that comprehensive masterplans were embedded into planning policy to deliver sustainable communities. Simon is personally leading the debate on Cardiff's Replacement Local Development Plan. This will establish the framework for all new development and growth in the city up to the year 2036. Cardiff Council's Local Development Plan team involved in the project included **Stuart Williams, Helen Williams** and **Richard Butler**.

<https://www.cardiffldp.co.uk/>

Planning Aid Wales is an independent, charitable organisation helping individuals and communities across Wales to participate more effectively in the planning system.

<https://planningaidwales.org.uk/about-us/>



Planning Aid **Wales**
Cymorth Cynllunio **Cymru**

Project timeline

November 2023-January 2024

Project launch

Mapping organisations in Cardiff and Wales

Role descriptions and scope of work for project partners

February 2024

Project team launch workshop and introduction to the Local Development Plan

March 2024

Local Development Plan Advisory Network launch event

April 2024

Project team workshop to define collective aims and ways of working

May-June 2024

Local Development Plan training day (Planning Aid Wales, Cardiff Council)

Planning engagement actions

Local Development Plan Advisory Network workshop 2

July-September 2024

Preparing for engagement actions

September 2024

17 and 21 September 2024 – Splott Bus tour

18 September 2024 – Action in Caerau and Ely Green Spaces workshop

21 September 2024 – Common Wealth How To Build A Town

24 September 2024 – Grange Pavilion and Youth Forum film launch and workshop

October - November 2024

Writing retreat and reflective conversations

December 2024

Privilege Café public forum: “I am NOT hard to reach:

Creativity, Engagement and Local Development Plans”

Project team: our shared aims

Skills swapping
‘enrichment, not impoverishment’ (ref: Phillip Henry).

Educating

Developing a broader understanding, between ourselves and the people we collaborate with, of how development processes / local development plans / place plans work.

Training ourselves and others:

undertake training in local development plan and place plan processes, and train others to be able to start a ripple effect.

Care

Showing care about how we work with people, not ‘targeting’ people.

Building trust

Thinking carefully about language and terminology, avoiding jargon, using multiple languages, avoiding loaded or leading questions.

Raise awareness of Local Development Plan processes:

add value to the formal consultation process, support people’s awareness of how they can input into local development plans and place plans and put in place local area evidence to start Place Plans.

Improve our understanding

of how policies related to the Local Development Plan can make a difference in local areas– identify best practices, recommend ways to strengthen policies, developing a better understanding of how different policies are interrelated.

Feedback

Build in a ‘full circle’ moment which communicates what has happened as a result of the project, and which helps people to understand reasons for future decisions.

Collaboration

Bringing Council representatives and communities closer together to explore possibilities for where communities can have power in development in their areas. Help to make more human connections with Council representatives. Align to connections across Cardiff Council: help with signposting to relevant areas of support.

Recognise skills and strengths of communities

and the value of local knowledge and existing assets: people are running buildings, services, projects, and hold local knowledge which isn't always visible. Value what's existing: explore ways to map the heritage and social value of existing assets. Map the positives to begin with what people already value in their area.

Learn across communities – learn from the differences and commonalities across our varied communities. Work together to support local people doing local things.

Identify opportunities for Asset Transfer and community ownership of development.

Make consultation fun, engaging, relevant

Food and face painting; skills swapping; debate and discussion: a variety of approaches for different audiences, not a one size fits all approach.

Real results

Develop consultation as an enriched experience that restores/ builds faith in consultation processes: show how people's voice will make a difference through a tangible outcome. Find paths to convert ideas into reality – explore the barriers stopping this happening.

Confidence for the organisations involved in delivering the project that communities' expectations can be managed – be clear about the scope and what we can tangibly achieve in the scope of the project. Don't erode trust that has already been earned.



Project team: our ways of working

Respect and Listening

Communities taking their share of responsibility: the Local Development Plan can't solve everything. Support with signposting to relevant resources which can address wider issues

Working in a positive way.
Not focusing only on negative voice:
follow positive and proactive energy

Be kind

Encourage big ideas with pathways to deliver them

Give legitimacy to different ways of working

Bring open-minded curiosity and good will

Explore positive relationships between the 'state' and the 'community.'

Expect quality

Advisory Network launch

A Local Development Plan Advisory Network launch event was held on 19 April 2024 at Cardiff University, led by the Cardiff University research team with Cardiff Council Planning department, and community organisation partners (Action in Caerau and Ely (ACE), Common Wealth, Grange Pavilion and Youth Forum, and Splott Community Volunteers).

The event aimed to bring together individuals and organisations who could support engagement with communities in decision making about the future development of their local areas.

37 people attended following 130 invites to representatives of community organisations, local authorities, Welsh Government, academics, third sector and private sector organisations, whose work could inform and/or be impacted by Cardiff's Local Development Plan.

Contacts were drawn from an ongoing project database of over 600 individual and organisational contacts, supplemented by an additional internet desktop search to engage other communities/organisations of place/interest connected to key aspects of the Local Development Plan.


The workshop began with a brief introduction to the Local Development Plan and Place Plans and continued with four simultaneous sets of conversations with each community organisation arranged as listening groups on four different tables around the workshop room.

Attendees were asked to share what kind of work / knowledge / expertise / resources / ideas / recommendations / etc., they could bring to inform how communities could engage with Local Development Plans and Place Plans.

The event was facilitated using our project team's shared aims and ways of working.



My question for ACE is...



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My question for CommonWealth is...



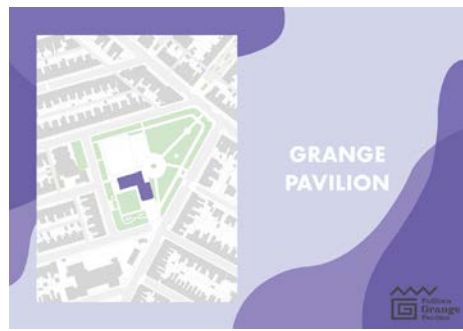
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My question for Grange Pavilion is...



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My question for Splott Community Volunteers is...



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Advisory Network expertise and priorities

Key areas of expertise and interest identified by individuals and organisations in the launch Local Development Plan Advisory Network workshop included:

Built environment: housing, heritage and public spaces

- Homes with community value.
- Low impact sustainable & affordable.
- Heritage buildings.
- Support place and public space shaping.
- Catalyst projects, use of underused buildings, empowering communities, recognise my/the female experience of the city and how the city is built.

Co-production and agency

- Collective power – action and influence - LTO (Locally Trusted Organisations) partners / adversaries.
- Local communities part of the planning process all the way to implementation from start to finish in a meaningful way, that benefits them and builds their power.
- Local community led assets work together, to drive the change... regardless of their background, ethnicity, and cultural background.
- Collaboration, transparency and good quality design, and placemaking, and driving true social value / commitment.

Education, skills, enterprise and economy:

- Job creation, Poverty reduction
- Education / mentoring / skills development / access to finance.
- Reducing inequalities

Environment and nature

- Climate and nature emergency affecting Cardiff now and beyond 2036.
- Engage communities with open spaces + understand biodiversity, conservation, organisations priorities, One Planet.
- Greening Cardiff – Green / social Networks
- Improve green spaces, increase public knowledge of the environment.

Health and wellbeing

- 20-minute neighbourhoods
- Active modes of travel, safe for walking, wheeling, and cycling, clean air, healthy neighbourhoods.
- Support current and new LTOs with their doorstep sport offer.
- Population health, Planetary health.

Advisory Network resources and support

The Local Development Plan Advisory Network launch asked attendees to discuss and signpost potential areas of support, existing resources, and expertise related to community engagement in Local Development Plans. Areas of support offered were:

Knowledge & resources from the University

Population health and health and environment research / Professional expertise in engagement and placemaking / Engaging students / Access to existing networks / Existing research resources.

Methods to engage/explore knowledge(s) with communities

Networking / Co-production with youth voice / Training in community organising / Role of citizens assemblies / Civic academia / Developing partnerships / Engagement events / Access to community spaces / Contribution to community events / Co-production of place narratives / Visual narratives / Volunteer time / Nature based public engagement.





Image: Jon Poutney

engagement actions



Image: Efa Blosser-Mason, Paolo Russo



SPLOTT COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS BUS TOUR



Bus
Tour
Pass

SploTT Community Volunteers' Bus Tour 2024.

Tuesday 17th September

Arrive: 10:00am

Boarding: STAR Leisure Centre.

Depart: 10:30am

Half-Way: Picnic at Tremorfa Park.

Return: 13:00am

Please inform us, when you RSVP, of any dietary requirements for the picnic lunch and of any additional needs.

RSVP - before Friday 6th September
To: info@sploTTcommunityvolunteers.co.uk



A sight-seeing tour of SploTT & Tremorfa. A chance to share your memories, thoughts and ideas.

Our strategy recognised the importance of any initial conversations, learning, exchange taking place in the landscape. Our engagement action was inspired by the tradition of a working-class community bus trip which introduced people to the experience of Splott, as lived. The bus tour of Splott and Tremorfa included stops at key locations that revealed hidden landscapes, the scale and the depth of disconnect between people and place. In preparation for the bus tour, we found ourselves formulating the following questions:

Q1) How does the city see, and articulate how it sees, Splott /Tremorfa playing a role in the city's future?

Q2) For Splott the question is: How does Splott /Tremorfa see and articulate its role in the City's future?

This is where Planning and the Lived Experience of those 'Planned for' elide. This is not a destination in itself – but a condition of fact and an expression of the Value we give to ourselves and to others.

Our first bus tour took place on 17th September 2024, with invited members of the Splott community, Cardiff Council and Cardiff University on board. We used printed route maps to instigate conversation and spark memories while visiting residential, industrial, school, park and coastal locations across Splott. Some locations were well known to most; some areas had never been visited before by people on the bus, including by long-term residents of Splott. The height of the bus gave a different perspective from above, even of well-known areas.

The invite-only tour was followed up with a public open day on Saturday 21st September 2024 with a classic Cardiff bus repeating the tour route on a loop.

Alongside the tour, we displayed Local Development Plan posters inside the Splott Community Volunteers venue, and encouraged people to contribute their thoughts, ideas, memories and questions by exchanging input for a raffle ticket to potentially win a 'mega air fryer'!



WALKER ROAD



SPLOTT ROAD



SPLOTT
COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Observations, Comments,
& Ideas

Observations, Comments,
& Ideas

Splott Community Volunteers' Bus Tour 2024.

A sight-seeing tour of Splott & Tremorfa. A chance to share your memories, thoughts and ideas.

Please tell us: The first 4 digits of your postcode:

Please tick: Local Resident Visitor to Splott Visitor to Cardiff Visitor to Wales Other

Below are some questions that might help when filling in this feedback sheet, while on the tour

How well does Splott work for you?

How do you travel around in Splott?

In what way has Splott changed for the better?

How do you think others 'see' or understand Splott?

What changes would make Splott better for you?

How often do you access Splott's public spaces?

What parts of Splott do you visit most and least and why?

How do you value Splott's public spaces?



Looking back to know the present,
to help shape the future.

DESIGN: GREANE



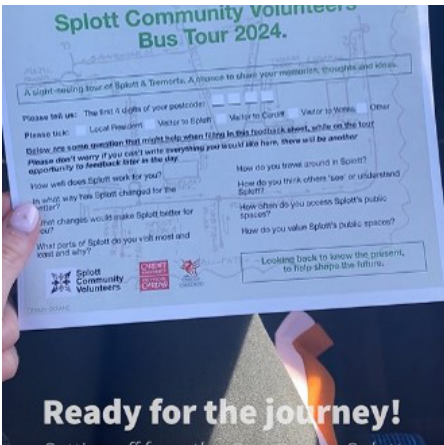


Image: Richard Powell





Image: Richard Powell



Image: Richard Powell



Image: Richard Powell

What people told Splott Community Volunteers

Access to green spaces, wild spaces, and natural play areas

Green spaces were described as supporting mental health, mitigating against the effects of large industry and urban heat islands, as visually beautiful, well-used, and as promoting social life, circular economy and self-sufficiency.

“What could be built on Willows High? Proximity of steel works. Housing + Urban forest, carbon sink, pollution control and wetlands are ways to mitigate pollution”

“As I live in a terraced property there is no green areas which does make me depressed”

“[Scientific Special Interest] SSSI estuary protected. Limited access to public. Can this be improved? No link to Coastal Path.”

“Combat heat islands with more trees.”

“Local veg shared with local people is something very special.”

“I never realised that by the “Bun” there is a cherry orchard at the end. We don’t need to go Japan to enjoy the beautiful cherry blossoms”

“Lots of trees and greenery but no people. SO close to the Bay and Coast and I didn’t realise!”

“Can we connect up all the parks with green corridors? Visiting in person makes it clear how valuable even the small parks are. There are small green gems all over Splott!”

Insufficient amenities and the loss of community assets

Residents described the loss of everyday and well-loved community facilities as affecting local economy, social life, and character.

“A community market space needs to be found!”

“We had a bowling green. WHAT NOW?”

“What did we lose socially when the Market went? Will the new facilities be available for community use after school?”

“Lost a butchers, amazing charity shop, Post Office, hairdressers.”

“Be nice to have a bank, Police Station, Library”

Appreciation of recent developments and initiatives

“The redevelopment of the Maltings Park – lovely job plus the skateboard Park, well used by the community.”

“Malting Park is beautiful and works so well. Much of the area is open and free to access.”

“Railway Gardens is a beautiful use of disused land. Wish it was open more often.”

“Fantastic to have a swimming pool. But needs to be open later so people who work full time can access it.”

Questions about Splott's future

“What is happening to the old library?”

“Space for wind farm? Future of steelworks?”

“It would be great to have a Splott heritage centre here like Caer Heritage in Ely”

“more facilities planned [in Maltings Park]? The basketball court in Adamsdown is rarely empty.”

Negative comments included perceptions of feeling unsafe, drug dealing, and safety of women near the Magic Roundabout, glass in parks, lack of street lighting, fly-tipping, hostile environments due to high fencing and barbed wire, the impact of industry being so close, and transport challenges.

“Industrial sites cut off communities from access to green areas/beach.”

“High fence and unfriendly”

“No link between industry and community anymore”

“Traffic here is bad. Lots of jobs I suppose. Is not pretty.”

“Replace school with community facilities – adventure park, wild meadow, allotments and housing!! With provision for the elderly and disabled.”

Community support

The backbone of the community was identified as its community groups and volunteers and a lack of permanent spaces for community spaces identified as a threat. Existing provision for young people was identified as appreciated and in need of protection. The Splott community itself stood out as being full of initiative and resilience.

“We have a community spirit that supports each other”

“There are lots of networks which bring a richness to the area - they are what make Splott Splott”.

“A very strong community support system is working in Splott. We try our best to look after each other with care and respect.”



Splott Community Volunteer reflections

Participants knew little or nothing at all about the Local Development Plan, therefore the first suggestion was that information dissemination about the LDP was vastly improved (in accessible, easy to understand formats).

Participants were also keen on decision-making at local levels, development of community councils and hands-on interaction with future place plans.

The LDP should include a route plan to educate people on the means and the route to designing and defining what a place plan should be.

Key Takeaway 1 – Democratic Accountability

Past passivity in what the city does with and to Splott can no longer (should no longer) be assumed as a certainty. A greater ward-wide engagement with the LDP is a priority and a necessity; a change in behaviour from all perspectives (council, community, university).

Key Takeaway 2 – Democratic Development

Splott has already undergone huge change – the loss of its economic value and prestige in the city. The people aren't hostile to change but want to be active in that change. If undergoing "upgrade", then it mustn't come at the expense of what is. Splott can't be used as a dumping ground.

Key Takeaway 3 – Disconnect

People value the solidarity of social spaces (such as Railway Gardens, the allotments and Splott Community Volunteers at the STAR) and feel a disconnect from the city centre (and the investment in commercial retail and leisure that the centre has benefitted from). They also feel a disconnect from landscape (the estuary, Splott Beach, Rumney river, the land around the heliport) due to the barrier of heavy industry along Ocean Way and Rover Way.

Key Takeaway 4 – Cohesion

The Splott community is robust but the cohesion can be easily damaged by the inadvertent removal (even for a short period) of just a few key Council-controlled but community administered facilities, so producing a cascade of socially harmful individually damaging consequences.

Next Step: Finding the 'champion'

within Cardiff Council, or from elsewhere, to work alongside/within the community to create the Splott-specific Place Plan. We recognise this requires a shift in the existing relationship in practice between communities and council structural systems.

Action in Caerau and Ely (ACE) Green Spaces Workshop



ace

Action in Caerau & Ely
Gweithredu yng Nghaerau a Threlai

Between 2023-2024, ACE were invited by Welsh Government, Cardiff Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner's office to lead a large listening exercise to identify the strengths and struggles of our community. We held open events, surveys and conversations with over a thousand Ely and Caerau residents to co-create a Community Plan for Ely and Caerau. Published in May 2024, the community action plan identifies 40 actions under 6 themes.

Our approach to a Local Development Plan consultation built on the relationships which had been developed through the listening exercise and focused on one of the identified themes: Spaces and the environment – developing and improving green spaces.

In September 2024, we invited members of the Community Plan steering group and other individuals and community organisations who had an interest in local green spaces. Grow Cardiff, Up Front Gardens, Cardiff West Community High School, community volunteers, local sports clubs and ACE staff took part in a participatory mapping activity exploring Ely and Caerau's green spaces.

We wanted to use the activity to explore the current uses, strengths, challenges and our future aspirations for green spaces in our area. We used photographs and Evoke picture cards to explore how we feel about green spaces, how we want to use them and what responsibility we want to take for them.

We asked everyone to identify key local green spaces on the large map using numbered stickers, and to describe their 'magic moments' associated with these places. We discussed each green space's strengths and challenges and aspirations for these spaces, considering what we collectively want to prioritise for change, and who could help make this happen.

We finished with a conversation about the longer-term implications for the Local Development Plan, as well as presenting two emerging examples of green spaces projects that people could get involved in right away, identifying opportunities for both long-term and short-term action.

What people told ACE

People at the workshop marked up a map of Ely and Caerau with numbered stickers, and completed forms describing ‘Magic Moments’, what people currently use the space for, strengths and opportunities of the space, weaknesses and challenges, community groups or organisations already making use of the space and what the space could be used for. Emerging themes included:

Magic moments

“Rec as the soul of Ely”

Participants described childhood memories of eating fresh, home-grown produce, and wanted to pass these moments on to the next generation. Memories included garden parties with adults and children helping, local children becoming volunteers, play in the park, children enjoying green spaces and wildlife, and growing, sharing and cooking food together with people who had never grown food before.

Green spaces and education

“We need more knowledge shared between groups and organisations.”

Participants noted that green spaces are being used by schools to show wildlife, and schools expressed interest in increasing awareness of biodiversity. A need for knowledge exchange was highlighted: some participants noted that they could communicate knowledge about biodiversity, while others expressed interest in accessing more knowledge about biodiversity and care of green spaces.

Relationship with Council

“Who has the power and capacity to make decisions and make things happen?”

Participants’ relationship with the Council relating to green spaces was described by participants as connected to legalities and permission required to use the space. Different green space usage types, require different levels and types of planning and permissions from the landowner which may or may not be the Council. Accessing information about land, and knowing who to contact in the Council regarding use of land, was described as a challenge, with help needed in identifying pathways to action. Participants suggested a need for more guidance to help community members operationalise their green space ideas, such as a “Toolkit to help smaller organisations engage with and comment on the local development plan.”

A key theme was the threat of green spaces being taken away from the community, with concerns that existing parks and allotments would be developed, “denying our kids safe spaces to hang out”, and that housing developers would be given permission despite community opposition.

“Capacity for LDP to make allocations for community food growing spaces? Finding out about land ownership. Negotiation with parks, maintenance, e.g. mowing schedules and pesticides etc”

“Biggest moment was saving it 20 years ago from housing development.”



Success of green spaces

“The local community want to have a shared space to be used as a community food growing area. People already have Unity and Caer heritage garden for food distribution and harvesting but a much larger area is needed - people have a strong interest and are potentially very committed to growing produce.”

Participants described the success of green spaces in terms of having good accessibility, high footfall and regular use, proximity to community and residential facilities, spaces to grow food, forage, a variety of options for play, and high biodiversity of flora and fauna. Negative comments focused on fly tipping, vandalism, alcohol and drug use in green spaces, and un-used spaces.

Mental health and loneliness

“peace and quiet, mental health. Somewhere to get away. Memory garden for children who had lost their mums”



Green spaces were identified as important for supporting people with mental and physical health challenges or struggling with loneliness, as spaces to meet people through volunteering, especially if new to the area or to the UK; green spaces were described as spaces for connection, peace and quiet, and somewhere to get away, with memorial gardens mentioned.

“Plenty of green space, but issue is one of quality and care of green spaces too.”

Maintaining green spaces

Participants described challenges of finding someone to maintain green spaces on a regular basis, and some participants suggested community members could do this, such as local residents and schools as part of organised activity, but noted that this would need some form of rewarding or recognition for volunteers.

ACE reflections

Relationships and contacts:

Relationships and contacts were formed through the workshop, strengthening the basis for a collaborative approach to community action for Green Spaces in Ely. The event supported the emergence of a new network of local ‘activists’ interested in taking forward action and influence together

Exchanging knowledge and ideas:

We co-created a great map of key green spaces with strengths, assets, challenges and opportunities for each, and exchanged lots of local knowledge about green spaces and local biodiversity. This gave us a better sense of the potential of green spaces.

Influence and participation:

We summarised that the Local Development Plan will be complicated and difficult to influence and that as a community we need to build our understanding and power. The workshop gave us evidence of community enthusiasm and action and confirmed a willingness in the community to take responsibility and participate in change. Opportunities may be found in developing a community-led Place Plan.



Common Wealth: How to Build a Town



Over the summer of 2024, Common Wealth held conversations about St Mellons with local residents through a garden party gathering and five individual interviews. The conversations were then adapted by writer Patrick Jones to create a performance script.

Residents, interviewees, people who work in the area, and council representatives, planning and development organisations, community development officers, Into Work officers and youth service representatives came together for an open space evening held at St Mellons Hub. Professional working class actors, one from St Mellons, performed monologues, dialogues and poetry, and prompted discussions between the audience at tables.

We shared food and conversation in an open space set up, facilitated by Common Wealth's Sounding Board made up of local people who had taken part in facilitation training with long-time Common Wealth collaborator Charlotte Lewis.

A sequence of performances followed by provocations and discussions, explored what residents and visitors knew about St Mellons, how they would describe St Mellons, and how they would build a town and a neighbourhood.



SCENE 1- "MEMORIES OR DREAMS'

ACTOR 1 - Thaer positionS themselves in front of the mic stand and starts to read from a piece of paper in Richard Burton voice

Thaer:

To begin at the beginning
it is Summer rainy grey in this small town.
Can you hear the dew falling, can you see the

grabs the sheet of paper looks at it

Thaer: Dylan Thomas, f**off

Throws paper away

Thaer: Croeso Witam Marharba, welcome to Costa Del Mellons innit.

Did you lock your cars?

Waits

Thaer: Haha, had you there didnt I? A joke but thats what they make you think though isnt it?

Well if you read Wales Online, The Sun and Daily Mail.
Single mothers, absent fathers, benefit cheats, scroungers
thieves, drug dealers, bike stealers

Kate: Nah, friendliest place on earth. I'll tell you why. Cos we're all equal see. And if someone hasnt got something you help them out.

So here we are -St Mellons, Llaneirwg - it means Eurwg's enclosure or field. Did you know that an old monk that's Eurwg, is said to have lived on the hill and founded the church many many years ago. He wanted a place for peace, reflection, community. I yerd he also liked to drop a couple of mushrooms now and again

Devised section - Thaer asked questions by the other performers.

Chifaa: Thaer, what can you tell us about St.Mellons?

Kate: What else do you know?



SCENE 2 'OUR TOWN'

Chifaa & Thaer face each other- they play a little word game

Chifaa: Welcoming

Thaer: Streets

Chifaa: Strong

Thaer: Voices

Chifaa: Resilient

Thaer: Underdogs

Chifaa: Struggling

Thaer: holidays

Chifaa: tired

Thaer: parks

Chifaa: Lonely

Thaer: Shopping trolleys

Chifaa: Green

Thaer: Spaces

Chifaa: Invisible

Thaer: Council

Chifaa: seperated

Thaer: souls

Chifaa: neglected

Thaer: Amenities

Chifaa: communal

Thaer: hope



Image: Jon Poutney

SCENE 4 - 'Invisibility Cloak'

Chifaa:

I tip toe through the streets i try not to make a sound i want to be invisible, slip through the night like mist. I am aware of every sound - every leaf that crackles is a footstep closing in, every branch that breaks is a grabbing hand.

I hear.I feel. I smell. I look out for every vape billow that appears every discarded cigarette is a fire burning, every breeze that carries stale alcohol is a drunk bully.

'Go back to where you came from?' He shouted.

What, London' I replied.

He spat at me. There were people about. Nobody said a word. Nobody. Like a fox hunted by a pack of hounds i dodge the snarling teeth the braying crowd - stay undercover i have to go to catch my bus at certain times plan my movements like an army operation. Check timetable, watch for shadow fall winter is the worst as darkness wraps around me like a shroud and i feel no escape- i only feel peace in my room or out amongst nature- i try to walk every day in the light- the trees dont judge me the grass doesnt judge me the birds dont shout abuse. Even when the mosque is built i wont go because i wouldnt feel safe- i am at my most vulnerable when i pray i will carry on getting the bus into town- i will take the risk- as many times they dont even turn up i pray to have an invisibility cloak so i can slip it on and disappear, disappear and be, be myself- no one can touch me- no one, no one can hurt me.

SCENE 5

Lights dim, houselights inside the houses remain on. A young person lies on the grass looking up at the stars- the night sky projected onto the ceiling above -

KATE:

This is the best place to look at the stars- my little sanctuary away from all the noise and b*****t- Do you know, humans have seen a star that is 100 million light years away- in the M100 galaxy

Pause

Kate: (CONT'D)

Yet we cant see the need for a football pitch with changing rooms where I live? Crazy innit.Oh they can build more and more houses though. Oh yes, more money, fewer amenities less peace to watch the stars - cram us all into an ever decreasing space, sit back and let us fight it out for our little piece of freedom then yes? While their bank balances sky rocket Isnt the free market so free?

Of course people have to live somewhere but who decides where and how? And at what cost?

Thaer:

When I was younger it was different. Used to go to the community centre play football, table tennis, go on trips- the youth workers were wicked - Margaret, Jill, Timmy, Cyril Payne, God rest his soul. They gave us chances, let us dream a bit like innit

Chifaa:

Thats where I fell in love with
the Stars up there not asking
anything of us apart from We.
Leave. It. Af*****glone. The
Cosmos is not for sale! Ok Elon
got it?

Thaer:

School carn teach you
what to look for up there. It
starts with a little inspiration,
a little time- all it takes is a
word here, a moment there- Craig
Bellamy, Joey Cordina, Berta Williams,
Aleighcia Scott, Neville Howard,
Tanni Grey Thompson, Jess Fishlock,
Colin Jackson- they shine like
those burning suns up there and
somewhere along the line someone
listened to them, saw their passion
and supported them- and that doesn't
happen on an app. Its bricks and
mortar, space and time, where
humanity is offered and received.
Not rocket science is it?
Libraries, youth clubs, football
teams, dance studios, community
centers and when you get to the
top send the elevator back down
for the next ones

Smiles, remembers, nods

Kate: (CONT'D)

Like Maria Mitchell the first
female astronomor said- 'there is
no cosmetic for beauty like
happiness' and happiness starts
with being yourself with being
allowed to be yourself and daring
to dream

We can learn a lot from up there
you know Everything is in balance
you see they rely on one another
stars planets galaxies - if
something is out of kilter it
affects everything else-lets just
say The Sun suddenly exploded
then we'd be gone within months
or The Moon cracked open the oceans
could swell and drown us all- we
are all inter related. See if there was a
football pitch with changing rooms and teams
that trained and played and had
their own special kit and a badge
or a community centre that held
careers advice then maybe just
maybe there wouldnt be as much
vandalism and destruction

Thinks

Galaxies are the birthing houses
of so many elements that create
human life, planets, food and
medicine- a fragile existence
overload one thing and boom it
all explodes - and when they tell
you to be frightened of your dreams
to fear the unknown..... f**k em

Pause

Tell them- "I've loved the stars
too fondly to be fearful of the
night."

Laughs

Galileo
blast of Queen Bohemian Rhapsody

Common Wealth reflections

Our community is calling for their voices to be heard and their input to be truly valued. They want their lived experiences to be more than just feedback that gets ignored and filed away — they want it to drive real change. The insistence from the community was action must follow consultation, and there should be clear communication about how their feedback has, or hasn't, influenced decisions.

Engaging in direct dialogue with those who live in the area can lead to a greater understanding of the need for local communities in the context of the city-wide plan. Using creative tools can lead to more dynamic and open conversations.

Alternative ways to consult ensure that more voices are heard: form filling relies on English language reading and writing skills and leaves no space for clarification.

The potential for what the Local Development Plan could do to support place plans in the local area would be the next step in the conversation with our community - people were very keen and excited about having support to imagine possibilities and take action; a first step may be the re-establishment of St. Mellons festival to bring the community together to celebrate and share.

Themes identified included:

Infrastructure (services, jobs, GP surgeries, shopping options, parks, health care facilities, schools) that hasn't caught up with mass development of housing; people said the area is growing rapidly but the services are not.

A lack of local job opportunities, skill development, apprenticeships and training for career development.

A lack of neutral spaces for community activity and celebration, festivals, gatherings and social spaces: a lack of community convergence, and a feeling of disconnection – not just an issue of transport but of being heard.



video by
Efa B-M
Paolo Russo

Thanks to Grange Pavilion
Youth Forum Members
helping create the video



Grange Pavilion and Grange Pavilion Youth Forum Film and workshop



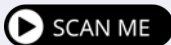
Grange Pavilion CIO and Youth Forum collaborated with local filmmakers and animators to create a short, animated film explaining the Local Development Plan in the words of the CIO and Youth Forum.

The film was launched at a workshop held in the Grange Pavilion, bringing together leaders from the various groups who use the Grange Pavilion and the young people from the Youth Forum.

Our aim for the workshops was to equip these groups with the knowledge to engage their respective communities and raise awareness about the Local Development Plan.

The workshop opened with the film launch, followed by a shared meal from a local restaurant and table discussions on themed posters inviting people to share their comments and questions on themes raised in the film:

- Economy
- Facilities
- Green Spaces
- Housing
- Placemaking



Link to Local Development Plan (LDP) Animation
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=peHiFJdc4U>
Cardiff University Community Gateway YouTube

Grange Pavilion CIO and Grange Pavilion Youth Forum Script for Doodle on Local Development Plans (LDP)

Opening Scene:

[Visual: A friendly cartoon character (Adam) appears on the screen, standing in front of a small town.]

[Narrator: Cheerful and friendly voice]

Narrator: "Hi there! Meet Adam! Adam lives in this beautiful town and loves being a part of his community."

Scene 2:

[Visual: Adam looking confused, with question marks around his head.]

Narrator: "But recently, Adam heard about something called a Local Development Plan, or LDP for short, and he wasn't sure what it was."

Scene 3:

[Visual: Adam holding a magnifying glass, looking at a big document labelled 'LDP'.]

Narrator: "Let's help Adam understand what an LDP is and why it's important for his town!"

Scene 4:

[Visual: The document opens up to show different sections like housing, transportation, green spaces, and community facilities.]

Narrator: "An LDP is like a roadmap for the future of a town or city. It shows how the area will grow and develop over the next 10-20 years. It covers things like housing, transportation, green spaces, and community facilities."

Scene 5:

[Visual: A timeline appears, showing years passing from 'Now' to 'Future'. Various icons pop up along the timeline representing new houses, parks, and roads.]

Narrator: "It helps plan where new homes will be built, how we'll get around, where new parks will be, and what community services we'll need."

Scene 6:

[Visual: Adam smiling and looking at a vibrant, well-planned town with happy residents.]

Narrator: "The goal is to create a place where everyone can live happily, with good homes, easy transportation, and lots of green spaces."

Scene 7:

[Visual: Adam thinking, with a lightbulb above his head.]

Narrator: "But how does it all work? Let's break it down!"

Scene 8:

[Visual: A checklist appears with three main points: 1. Research and Consultation, 2. Draft Plan, 3. Public Consultation and Feedback.]

Narrator: "First, there's a lot of research and consultation with the community to understand their needs. Next, a draft plan is created, and then everyone in the community gets a chance to review it and give their feedback."

Scene 9:

[Visual: Adam attending a community meeting, talking to other residents and council members.]

Narrator: "This is where you come in! Community input is crucial. You can attend meetings, fill out surveys, and share your ideas and concerns."

Scene 10:

[Visual: Adam and other residents happily discussing and looking at the LDP together.]

Narrator: "Your feedback helps shape the final plan, ensuring it reflects the community's needs and desires."

Scene 11:

[Visual: The final LDP document, stamped with 'Approved', and showing a vibrant, thriving community.]

Narrator: "Once all the feedback is considered, the final plan is approved and put into action. This plan will guide the town's development and ensure it grows in a sustainable and beneficial way."

Scene 12:

[Visual: Adam standing proudly in front of his town, with a big smile and a thumbs up.]

Narrator: "So, now you know! LDPs are all about planning for a better future for everyone. And remember, your voice matters. Get involved and help shape the future of your community!"

Closing Scene:

[Visual: Text on screen with a call to action: 'Learn more about your local LDP and get involved today!' and the local council's website link.]

Narrator: "Learn more about your local LDP and get involved today! Visit www.cardiffdp.co.uk for more information."

End of Script

This script uses simple language and engaging visuals to explain the key aspects of Local Development Plans, with Adam as the central character. It emphasizes the importance of community involvement and aims to make the information accessible to everyone.

A CARING GRANGETOWN

What are your thoughts on schools, community spaces, health facilities, amenities, the role of the town? How do you feel you are supported in Grangetown?

GRANGETOWN

GRANGETOWN

THE ECONOMY OF GRANGETOWN

What are your thoughts on jobs, skills, professions, opportunities in Grangetown?

GRANGETOWN

GRANGETOWN

A GREENER GRANGETOWN

What are your thoughts on the green infrastructure and natural assets in Grangetown? How do you feel about their use, access, location and size?

GRANGETOWN

GRANGETOWN

AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN GRANGETOWN

What are your thoughts on new affordable housing in Grangetown? What is affordable to you?

GRANGETOWN

GRANGETOWN

What people told the Grange Pavilion

"We need housing, but what about the services to support it?"

Participants highlighted several pressing issues regarding land use and development. Key concerns included:

Affordable Housing

There is a strong demand for affordable and social housing to address the housing crisis and keep the community intact. However, there are concerns about where to place new developments without losing valuable green spaces.

Environmental Concerns

Many participants wanted to ensure that development respects the environment, including the health of the soil, protection of existing green spaces, and leaving room for nature recovery in some areas.

Infrastructure for New Developments

Participants expressed that development should be accompanied by adequate infrastructure, including schools, healthcare facilities, and transportation systems, to prevent overcrowding and congestion.

Community Control and Sustainability

Suggestions included establishing a Community Land Trust to ensure land and housing remain affordable and accessible to locals, with an emphasis on sustainable, intergenerational, and mixed-use housing solutions.

Greater oversight of social housing

Participants suggested that there should be greater governance of social housing providers and a better understanding of the impact of the general housing list allocation process and its disproportionate effect on marginalised communities.

"Grangetown has a unique sense of community we don't want to lose."

Participants highly valued Grangetown's:

Sense of Community and Social Cohesion

Grangetown is seen as a tight-knit community with a strong sense of local identity, which residents want to preserve amidst new developments.

Green Spaces

Community green spaces such as Grange Gardens, Marl Park, and riverbanks are highly appreciated. Residents emphasised the need to maintain and enhance access to these spaces, especially for younger generations and families.

Affordability and Accessibility

Locals stressed that affordable housing and amenities allow long-term residents to remain in the area and discourage gentrification that displaces families.

Safety and Cleanliness

Concerns included protecting parks from antisocial behaviour, improving safety in public areas, and better maintenance for existing green spaces and amenities.

"I can't believe the housing costs—how can families stay here?"

The main areas for desired change included:

Redevelopment of Underused or Problematic Sites

Participants identified sites like the gasworks, which are contaminated, as opportunities for safe and sustainable redevelopment for housing or community uses

Improvement of Green Space Accessibility

There is a desire for more green spaces that are easily accessible and designed to be safe, especially in neighbourhoods with limited greenery.

Reducing Car Dependency and Enhancing Public Transport

Participants want to see a reduction in car traffic, improved pedestrian access, more cycling routes, and affordable fit for purpose public transport.

Supporting Small Businesses

Protecting retail spaces from being converted into housing, reducing business rates, and supporting local businesses are seen as ways to preserve the local economy and community character.

"Imagine using underutilised areas for community-focused housing."

Specific sites mentioned included:

Gasworks Site: Some suggested redeveloping this contaminated site with sustainable social housing, though careful attention would be required to address health risks due to contamination (e.g., arsenic, cyanide).

Unused Spaces and Car Showrooms: Certain underutilised spaces, such as car showrooms and retail spaces, could be repurposed for community needs like housing, parks, and community hubs.

The River Taff Area

Suggestions included making better use of riverbanks for community spaces and walkways, preserving natural beauty, and enhancing community engagement with the river

Unused Garages and Coach Houses: Repurposing these spaces as workspaces or community hubs for small businesses, repair shops, or community activities to support local entrepreneurship.

"We need real data to show how this affects our community!"
Evidence gathered could include:

Surveys and Community Feedback: Documented opinions and preferences from locals about housing needs, green space use, and infrastructure requirements can support policy recommendations.

Mapping of Land Ownership and Potential Sites: Develop open-source maps showing who owns which areas and identify viable sites for development to help inform sustainable planning.

Case Studies and Comparisons: Examples like the New Broadway intergenerational housing model and community-led development projects provide successful precedents.

Health and Environmental Reports: Studies on the health impacts of contaminated sites, green space distribution, and access to healthcare could support infrastructure and environmental planning. Studies on the impact on children living in overcrowded housing such as sleep, education, mental well-being. Link ongoing research in Cardiff University as evidence-based place planning.

"We want a development plan that empowers local voices."
Suggestions included:

Prioritizing Affordable and Social Housing

A focus on genuinely affordable housing, with a clear and inclusive definition of "affordability," to address the housing crisis and maintain social diversity.

Community Land Trusts and Local Ownership

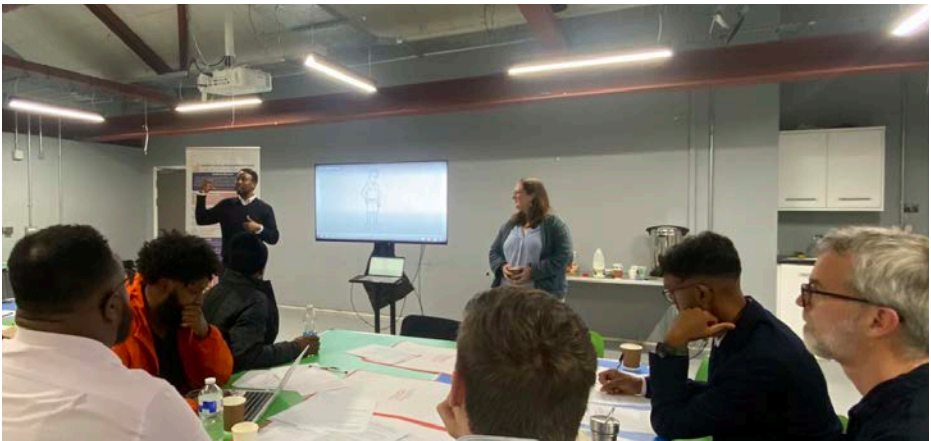
Establishing structures for community-controlled land and housing developments, which can ensure local needs are met over developer-driven projects.

Integration of Infrastructure with New Developments

Participants urged policies requiring that healthcare, educational facilities, and transportation infrastructure scale with housing developments.

Improved Communication and Collaboration

Participants requested more transparent and inclusive planning processes with local authorities, utilizing local expertise and ensuring community members are informed and involved in decisions.



Grange Pavilion and Grange Pavilion Youth Forum reflections

"We need to turn this feedback into a roadmap for action."

Key takeaways and priorities include:

Focus on Housing Affordability and Accessibility: The need for housing that meets the community's affordability standards while preserving the area's social character is paramount.

Environmental and Social Sustainability: Development should not compromise green spaces or public health, and it should ideally integrate sustainable practices that nurture the local environment and community.

Local Empowerment and Representation: The community desires more agency in decisions that affect them, particularly around land use and access to amenities. This can be achieved by advocating for policies that support Community Land Trusts and cooperatives. Focus on diverse voices through listening and dialogue with communities use a listening-first approach.

Holistic Development Approach: Emphasise a balance between development and infrastructure, ensuring that any increase in population is matched with proportional growth in schools, healthcare, and public transportation.

Support for Local Economy: Protecting retail spaces, supporting small businesses, and fostering local employment opportunities are crucial for maintaining the economic health and character of Grangetown.

Writing day reflections

Project members attended a 'writing day' to reflect on engaging with the Local Development Plan and with the project. The reflections focus on the value of engaging community organisations in making a Local Development Plan, as well as the challenges of working with the planning system.

A key theme from participants' reflections is the enthusiasm that exists within local communities to get involved and effect change. Members of the local community already invest considerable energy in local projects and there is potential to develop these into networks, to share skills, and build capacity.

Community engagement events were opportunities for learning about the interests and priorities of those living in the area, identifying where there are shared ambitions, and where there are differences within communities. Participants highlighted the value of meeting elected members and officers of the Council and learning about their activities and the constraints on their work.

The reflections identified the scope for the Council to do things 'with' the community and see the community as a skilled and knowledgeable resource. This requires culture change in the longer-term to build alliances and encourage councils to be more open and empathetic to community concerns.

Community organisations promoted delegation of engagement activities to communities, with councils contracting local groups to deliver community engagement in the Local Development Plan.

Community organisations expressed scepticism about being involved in engagement activity that formed a 'tick box exercise' and pointed out the risks to community groups in leading engagement activities.

Community organisations identified the value of working together across the city and its communities. Each community organisation worked with residents and community groups in their local area, but also found value in sharing ideas. Local planning authorities could play a valuable role in building networks across community organisations before, during, and after preparation of a Local Development Plan.

Community organisations recognised the importance of the Local Development Plan in shaping the future of their communities. The organisations also identified significant barriers and challenges to working with the planning system. These barriers include the complexity of the planning system, the professionalised nature of planning, and the constraints imposed on communities' ideas by the hierarchy of plans and policies at other levels.

Additional barriers identified were the complex language used in planning and the length of planning documents. Planning also felt like a longer-term activity that did not have the flexibility to address the immediate needs of people living in local communities. Community groups also referred to the challenge of linking community aspirations to the content of the Local Development Plan.

The community groups expressed concerns about the emphasis placed by the Council and others on 'managing expectations'. The community groups argued that engaging the community should be about raising people's expectations, and called for more ambitious, enabling, and 'make it happen' approaches.

Community groups identified the challenge of 'knowing who to talk to' in the council. The groups wanted personal contacts and clear signposting of who to approach on different issues. The community groups also wanted depth and breadth of relationships with council officers to ensure engagement was a continuous process.

Reflective conversations

Post-engagement action conversations between Mymuna and each of the four organisations reflected on the project's learnings and recommendations for next steps.



Collaboration, building capacity and creating networks

“It was so powerful to be in a space with everyone to just share those ideas and share best practice.”

“It was a meeting of activists, which is good, because you can build on that, and you can do something together. And its people who sort of have some kind of vision and long term commitment to doing something positive together.”

“I learned the issues are very similar for communities which are marginalized. It isn't really based only on colour, religion or anything like that. It's actually communities who have effectively been pushed aside by society over a number of years. That's what was really interesting to know: there's a lot of similarities between the experiences of the community in Grangetown, Butetown, Splott, really very similar experiences. There's a real opportunity for us to come together and unify and actually make some real differences in the future, because now we see there are lots of commonalities in terms of those challenges that we face. I think that was really interesting.”



“It started a conversation that is long overdue about social capital, civic mission, community wealth, in terms of knowledge, skills, resource capacity. Understanding this is looking beyond just the local development plan. This project is the seed of a much, much bigger ambition that has come to light.”

The impact of engagement

“For me, that's the biggest output, community mobilization. There's a real will now to get more involved, to understand what you know, how the system works, and how we can have an improved input into the system that leads to tangible benefits for us, that we are not just passive in this anymore. Yeah, we've been passive for far too long, which has resulted in serious losses for our community.”

“I've struggled to work out how on earth communities at our level can really influence the LDP, and what it even means in practice for that to happen is still a bit of a mystery, I think.”



“That’s a big thing with the LDP, that it’s not just about bricks and mortar, that this is the impact that we’re seeing now of years and years of violence and injustice. So, the community, what does it need to come through that process?”

“It was just information overload. In hindsight, I would have really preferred at least a good six months’ worth of training. And it was overwhelming, the amount of information.”

Complexity of planning processes

“We’re the intermediary to the community, but then we needed an intermediary between us and the experts in the room.”

“My aim was, we could create, and come up with something that equally a nine year old or 10 year old to a 90 year old lady or gentleman could understand. If I had to break it down very simply, could they understand that? If you put it in such a basic way, and then you gave more opportunity to give more information, that was my sort of thinking very early on.”

“Planning in general, I think can be incredibly difficult for communities to understand, because this is just the way it’s presented. It’s really prohibitive for many people to understand, because it’s just lots and lots of complicated legal policies and lots and lots of documents and PDFs to scroll through. You know, it’s just the size of that, it just makes it so prohibitive for people. So that really was where I started becoming a bit more interested - actually, for me, it’s that planning is everything, whether it’s housing, whether it’s jobs, whether it’s, you know, you name it, planning is involved. So planning is everything, and then so realistically, we’ve got inequalities in any area within society. Planning has a role.”



“There's a tendency to think because the community doesn't engage in the process, it is somehow lacking in intellect. There's a disparity of understanding, whereas, actually, sometimes it's because there's a deep mistrust of institutions across the board.”

Community and Council relationships

“There's an irony. It's called community engagement. The community's engaged, but the council isn't.”

“The actual sharing of real knowledge - I feel that the conversations were the generosity was shown by the communities, and the communities, in a way, were willing to expose themselves, both in good and a bad light, whereas the city officers were quite guarded in their conversations. I could see conversations blossoming, but then being shut down. And I think that's fear and it's always incumbent on the community to be generous.”

“In some ways, I think the level of disengagement is more profound than anybody really expected, but the level of enthusiasm to come forward and repair that damage, particularly from the communities, is profound. That enthusiasm and that resilience shown within the communities to learn, to take up the challenge, I'd say that's probably the biggest thing I've learned.”

“We can do festivals and engage with local young people and different groups in terms of actually saying, ‘what matters to you?’, and then linking back [...] It's all interconnected. It's just about how to really connect those dots and those missing links in terms of language and jargon and engagement strategies.”

Trust the community

“We were invited! We never get invited. This area is ignored. And if it's not ignored, it's frowned down upon or described as deprived. You know, the prefix of deprived is in every single online article. We're never, ever uncontextualized. We're always contextualized as deprived. It's a falsehood, you know, and we're always being dressed up as being this, and we're never really asked what we are. It was the invitation, that's why we participated. It was a beautiful thing, being invited.”

“The partners have been treated with a type of dignity [...] money was allocated to pay for staff time and to pay for resource and to enable us to be creative in our engagement. There was a budget set aside for the engagement activity, as opposed to: “oh, can you guys just do this and, you know, make it fun and all of that, but we're not giving you any money to do it, and we're not respecting your time or your expertise in this area.” [...] The recommendation is to continue the conversation and to continue it with the same dignity and respect for the community organizations.”

“The main objective of this project was it to see how much more powerful community consultation is when you put it in the hands of a community embedded organization. Or was this about feeding into the LDP?”

“I think that when you start opening up that idea of “this, too, is possible,” and you hand it over to community, it gives all sorts of spin offs that you don't control and that are really exciting.”

“That idea of actually recognizing that community organizations, like the ones that we're all working in, are the best place to actually listen to communities and communicate. Actually funding them to do that maintains us, gives us the resources to do what we do best anyway, and it recognizes our role.”

“We spent a week interviewing people, and that was quite a big moment, just being able to sit one on one with people and really ask them some quite deep questions around the area [...] this has allowed us to kind of understand the community in a way that's a lot deeper than we have had previously. This is such a big area. Who's represented, who isn't, how can we bring new voices into the fold? And that feels really positive.”

“Our ambition is to be able to understand the LDP for our residents, to be that translator for our residents, to be able to explain what it means for them and to them, and be far more active, not passive in the changes that happen in our local area.”

“I would say that the Council has to learn to trust the communities.”

“I am absolutely doing this for the love of it, for the love of my community, and I'm doing it to improve the future. So, my actions come from a real place of care and love and actually, that's the difference.”



CARDIFF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

A guide to the Cardiff Local Development Plan

WHAT IS THE LDP?

The Cardiff Local Development Plan (LDP) guides the development and management of land and buildings in your area. Residents and community members can provide comments and feedback to define the needs of your area and improve the LDP. This can have a direct impact on your community.

NOW UNTIL 2036

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

The LDP can shape future developments in the city to benefit your community, economy and environment. Key themes include:



Lack of Affordable Homes



Providing for Jobs in the City and the Wider Region



Meeting the Needs of an Ageing Population



Promoting Regeneration and Sustainable Communities



Distributing Growth Sustainably



Responding to the Climate and Nature Emergency



Reducing Reliance on the Car



Revitalise the City Centre and District and Local Shopping Centres

CURRENT STAGE

- A proposed version of the LDP is currently being prepared by the council with proposed policies and areas for development. This is expected to be released in 2025.
- There will be an 8 week public consultation led by Cardiff Council in 2025. This is your chance to get involved and comment on the proposed plan!

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- During the 8 week consultation period, you can comment your thoughts, opinions, and any recommendations to change or add to the plan. You can submit additional evidence which will add to your comment.

**8 WEEK
CONSULTATION
LED BY CARDIFF
COUNCIL IN
2025**



ROLE OF LOCAL COUNCILLORS

- Local councillors can support your community and individuals within the planning and development of your local area.
- They will listen and consider your views, bringing these to the attention of Cardiff Council.
- Find out more about your local councillors at: [Cardiff.moderngov.co.uk/memberindex](https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/memberindex)

YOU MATTER!

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- 1 The plan is submitted to Welsh Government and an inspector will examine the plan and your comments.
- 2 The inspector will write a report with any changes or recommendations to the plan.
- 3 Cardiff council will make any changes and the final plan will be published and put into action.



For more information, visit: <https://www.cardiffldp.co.uk/>



Recommendations for next steps:

Continue the conversation

Continue the conversation and the engagement process with dignity and respect for existing community organizations. Fund and trust them to lead engagement within their local communities. Involve existing community groups much earlier in the process and allow for a two-way exchange of knowledge on planning and engagement.

Make engagement relevant and tangible

Avoid overloading the community or volunteer groups with additional burdens or workloads, as they are already stretched with their own objectives. Make engagement relevant and tangible by integrating it into the organisations' own work.

Build capacity through engagement

Engagement can bring together networks of people with shared interests and aims, and diverse kinds of knowledge and experience. Use engagement to mobilize networks of people who can take action together. Identify short- and long-term actions communities can take to increase community agency and ownership of development in their local areas.

Make Local Development Plan processes simpler and relatable

The LDP is complex and abstract and it can be hard to understand how communities can meaningfully impact the process. Translate the process through community voices, break down the process into short term actions which communities can immediately influence, and make it clear how communities can meaningfully impact the long term, including by supporting community-led Place Plans.

Resources and links

Privilege Cafe

<https://theprivilegecafe.com/>

Cardiff University Community Gateway

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/community/our-local-community-projects/community-gateway>

ACE (Action in Caerau and Ely)

<https://www.aceplace.org/>

Common Wealth

<https://commonwealththeatre.co.uk/cardiff/>

Grange Pavilion and Grange Pavilion Youth Forum

<https://grangepavilion.wales/>

Link to Local Development Plan (LDP) Animation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=peHiFIJdc4U>

Cardiff University Community Gateway YouTube



Splott Community Volunteers

<https://splottcommunityvolunteers.co.uk/>

Cardiff Council

Cardiff Council Local Development Plan

<https://www.cardiffldp.co.uk/>

Planning Aid Wales

<https://planningaidwales.org.uk/>

The Project team and Local Development Plan Advisory Network signposted to existing policies, research and further sources of support / information, including:

Cardiff Council planning policies and consultation

Cardiff LDP Virtual consultation room: <https://cardiffldp.consultation.ai/>

Cardiff LDP <https://www.cardiffldp.co.uk/>

One Planet Cardiff <https://www.oneplanetcardiff.co.uk/>

Stronger Fairer Greener <https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ENG/Your-Council/Strategies-plans-and-policies/stronger-fairer-greener/>

Participation Strategy <https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ENG/Your-Council/Strategies-plans-and-policies/Participation-Strategy/>

Research / guidance on planning in Wales

Audit Wales, *The Effectiveness of Local Planning Authorities in Wales* <https://www.audit.wales/publication/effectiveness-local-planning-authorities-wales>

Planning specific support

Planning Aid Wales <https://planningaidwales.org.uk/>

Planning Aid Wales, *Place Plans* <https://planningaidwales.org.uk/place-plans-a-guide-for-communities/>

Planning Aid Wales, *The Value of Engagement* <https://planningaidwales.org.uk/valueofengagement/>

Public health strategy and toolkit

Shaping Our Future Wellbeing Strategy <https://cavuhb.nhs.wales/about-us/our-mission-vision/shaping-our-future-wellbeing-strategy/>

Health Impact Assessment and Local Development Plans: A Toolkit <https://phw.nhs.wales/publications/publications/health-impact-assessment-hia-and-local-development-plans-ldps-a-toolkit-for-practice/>

Existing research and support on place-based community engagement

Community Consultation for Quality of Life (CCQoL) <https://www.qolf.org/projects/community-consultation-for-quality-of-life-ccqol/>

CCQoL Wales National Report https://www.qolf.org/wp-content/uploads/CCQOL_Wales-National-Report-compressed.pdf

CCQoL Inclusive Engagement Toolkit <https://www.qolf.org/what-we-do/inclusive-engagement-toolkit/>

CCQoL Code of Practice <https://www.qolf.org/code-of-practice/>

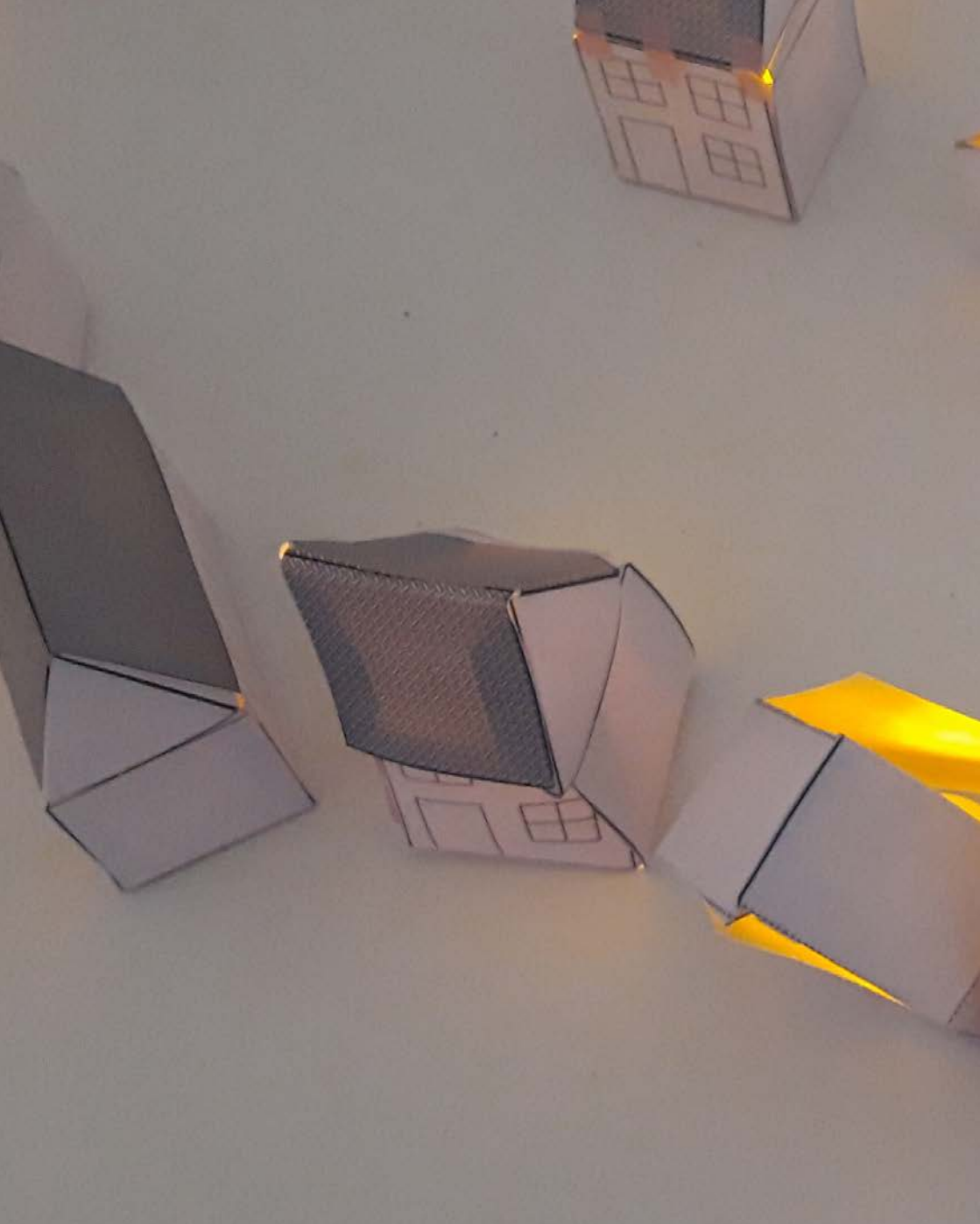
Community Voices Cardiff <https://communityvoicescardiff.commonplace.is/map/map>

Building Communities Trust <https://www.bct.wales/>

Existing place-specific research related to Cardiff's Southern Arc

ACE, *Community Plan for Ely and Caerau* <https://www.aceplace.org/community-plan/>

Kahn, Harris, Smith, *A Grangetown To Grow Up In*, <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/stories/building-a-child-friendly-recovery-plan-for-grangetown>



Planning Aid Wales
Cymorth Cynllunio Cymru