



SPAB Maintenance Co-operatives: a move towards meaningful community participation?

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Introduction



Ground-breaking initiative to connect, encourage and support local volunteers



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Project Background



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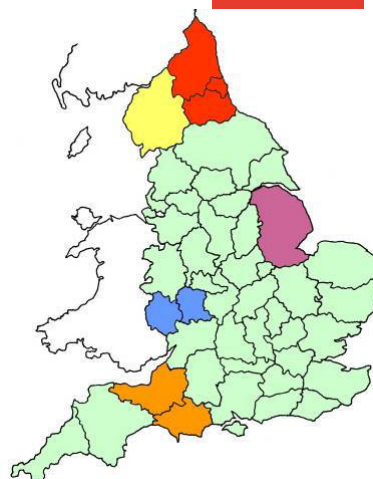


Alternative Engagement



The Maintenance Co-operatives project will build capacity in five target areas:

- Lincolnshire
- Cumbria,
- North East
- Worcestershire/Herefordshire
- Dorset/Somerset



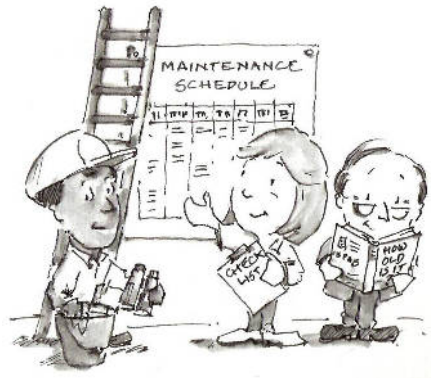
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What is a Co-operative?

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The purpose of a Co-operative is to come together as a group of volunteers to share and nurture the expertise of it's members, so that they can support each other in maintaining their local places of worship



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Membership

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Anyone who supports the purpose of the Co-operative and participates in its activities is welcome to join



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Participative Practice

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- Not a simple process
- Requires negotiation and flexibility
- Different across the regions



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Climbing the ladder?

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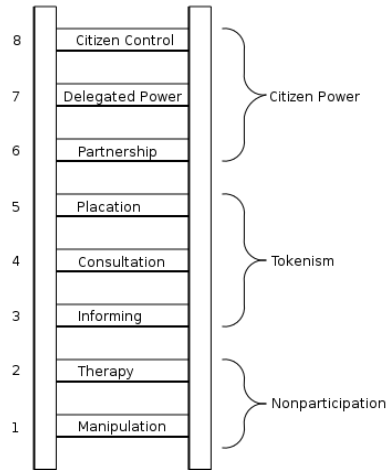
Citizen control, or
tokenistic
engagement?



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Participation and Non-participation



- Juxtaposes the powerless with the powerful
- Increasing degrees of participation
- Citizen Control occurs when 'have-nots' become decision-makers

(Sherry Arnstein, 1969, p.217)

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Citizen Control

Governing, managing and negotiating



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Volunteers

- Empowerment isn't always desired
- Varying levels of commitment and reason for involvement
- Many wish to remain at a 'tokenistic' level



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Winterton

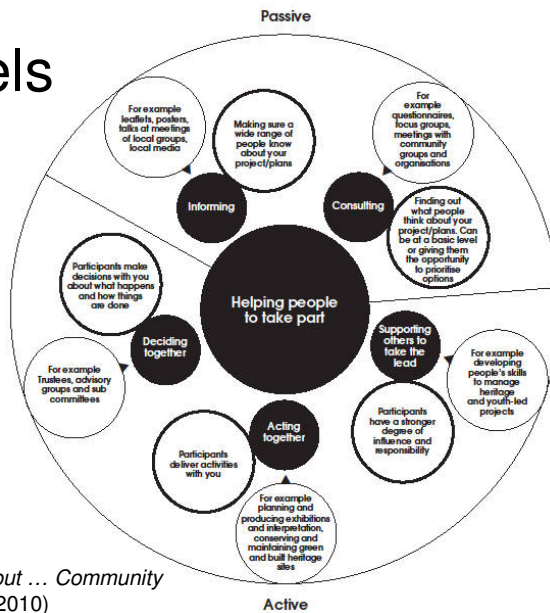


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Models



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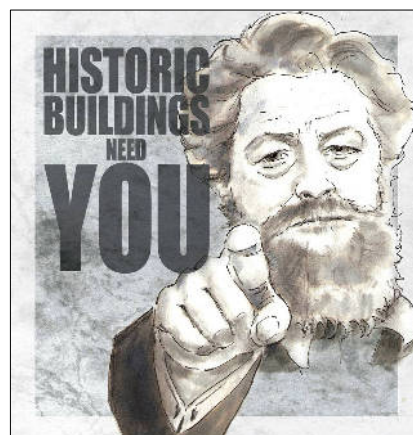
(HLF, 'Thinking about ... Community Participation', Nov 2010)

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Meaningful Participation?

The key to meaningful participation is the development of new ways of becoming involved, and a wider range of volunteer roles which can more easily take into account the different levels of participation that volunteers wish to commit to



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