

FACILITATION SKILLS FOR PLANNERS

A practical course promoted by Planning Aid South with Jeff Bishop of BDOR



The event is being hosted by

WHY 'FACILITATION'?

- The new planning system places increased emphasis on community involvement in plan preparation and applications on significant projects.
- The general approach to this is captured in Statements of Community Involvement that are often ambitious about methods to be used.
- There is a focus in the new system on bringing key people together early in the process - 'front-loading' - with the aim of creating consensus.
- Enabling often very diverse people and groups to work together successfully requires skills in '**facilitation**'.
- Such skills also have value in internal sessions, meetings with applicants and discussions with elected members.
- We believe that every planning team needs to contain people with facilitation skills if the challenges of community involvement are to be met.
- There is little doubt that gaining such skills will be of increasing value in the next few years within the planning job market.

WHAT SORT OF TRAINING'?

- The course will be **active, challenging, practical and enjoyable!**
- It will involve a mixture of short presentations, small and large group exercises and individual work. A course manual is provided.



- The course is based on a nationally proven and recognised model, adapted to meet the specific requirements of planning officers and the planning system.
- Two days are essential because the core activity is a long session in which participants actually plan and deliver some facilitation – the only way to really learn such skills.
- By the end of the course, participants will be able to prepare for and deliver facilitated group workshops and discussions, and understand how this can contribute to consensus building around planning issues.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- The course is for local government planning officers at any level and from any team or section.
- There is a financial incentive for two people attending from one authority because having a close colleague with whom to share ideas can be crucial to consolidating facilitation skills.
- If two people attend, a mix from policy and development teams would be valuable.
- The course is also open to planners working in private consultancies and other organisations.

WHO IS RUNNING THE COURSE?

- The course will be run by **Jeff Bishop** of BDOR Limited.
- Jeff has many years of practical experience in community involvement in planning policy and on projects small and large, urban and rural, in the UK and other countries.
- His work provided the foundation for changes in the planning system in terms of community involvement.
- Jeff has run, and is still running, extremely successful facilitation training for many groups across the country. *(8 people out of 14 scored it 10/10 last time!)*
- Jeff will be supported by **Dagmar Hutt**, Director of Planning Aid South.

WHEN, WHERE AND HOW?

- The course will be held in the Council offices on
- The course starts at 9.15 each day and finishes at 4.30.
- Lunch and refreshments are provided.
- Details of costs and bookings are in the attached Booking Form.
- There is a limit of 16 places on the course so prompt booking is advised.



This is one in a series of such courses that will be put on across England over the next year.