HIA: CREATING A HEALTHY COMMUNITY GREEN SPACE

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Why?

- Health and wellbeing, community and social impacts
- Regeneration Framework - ‘Vibrant and Viable Places’ (WG,2013)
- Extremely socially deprived urban area
- High levels of poor quality housing, citizens with a number of issues
- Community participation
- Develop a green space suitable for ALL local needs
- Aim to enhance community and health impacts and discuss and mitigate for unintended impacts and consequences
West Rhyl
How?

- Steering Group established
- HIA scoped - half day scoping workshop
- Evidence gathered - paper presented
- Scope informed the Tender Brief for design consultants to bid for
- Half day participatory workshop held to appraise the draft plans
- Brought stakeholders together - LA officers; Housing Association; Voluntary/community representatives; local residents; Welsh Government; Police and Fire service
3 KEY THEMES...

- Consultation - focus on involving the communities affected; clear consultation strategy required; appropriate for local context
- Communication - social media methods; open and transparent i.e. Any constraints; appropriate language
- Function of the green space - multi functional and cross generational; complement other spaces in town; sustainability for future
Actual Consultation - Development Phase

- Used traditional methods, events and social media
- Utilised residents to help obtain feedback - visit specific roads and residents they knew
- Drop in centre - discussions/stand every Friday
- Outgoing population known - what about incoming population?
- As space cleared - on site office for residents to visit and discuss the design
- Language used
- Consultants debriefed about local tensions/context beforehand
APPRAISAL AND 2 CONTENTIOUS ISSUES

- Community Safety element - community and CCTV
- Need to minimize Anti-social behaviour - community buy-in for CCTV and good lighting
- Cost of this

- Dogs - to be allowed or not???
- Many discussions about this - social isolation impacts; physical activity impact; environmental consequences....

- Lots of positive impacts re physical activity, community and environmental wellbeing also.
OUTCOMES

- Involved all community stakeholders and residents where possible
- Identified gaps/issues to be addressed and the wider community impact
- Directly influenced the design and consultation - creating a healthy, accessible, sustainable space for all
- Short report produced. Design consultants and LA officers used it to report to decision makers
- Dogs allowed but very little CCTV...
Diolch yn fawr!

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