



Consultation Workshops

Overview

Introduction

Once the situation analysis is complete, a thorough consultation and engagement process running throughout a project is critical to its success. This can take various forms and involve a range of different stakeholders, but the ultimate goal is to bring everyone through the process with a shared vision of what is to be achieved. This enables the various stakeholders to understand different viewpoints and, therefore, to understand why compromises are often required in order to arrive at the most appropriate solution. What's more, getting a development project through the development approvals process, or attracting funding for a community project is much easier to achieve with the documented support of local authorities, industry groups and the local community.

There are numerous advantages to having a consultation stage in this early Visualise phase when there are no concrete plans on the table, such as:

- Reduced development risk
- The opportunity to explore 'what ifs'
- The creation of advocates
- The opportunity to secure tenants and project partners early
- The development of a strong value proposition

Key Resources for Consultation:

The following websites and publications are valuable when deciding upon the consultation process:

- The International Association for Public Participation Australia (IAP2), identifies public participation has a spectrum of five different processes in which consultation can occur – informing, consulting, involving, collaborating and empowering. As a spectrum, these processes can be moved between.



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Core Team Workshops

Introduction

Once the developer and design team have possibly defined an Interim Project Vision, all site analysis information has been gathered and the Situation Analysis is complete, it is critical to engage with representatives of the local council to involve them in the visioning process.

This initial meeting of the core team can take place in various locations, however it is worthwhile considering a core team site visit to enable those involved the opportunity to become familiar with the project and each other, capture new ideas, and enables a forum for members to table their concerns and desires from the outset. This also offers the opportunity for the developer to outline commercial imperatives while gauging council support.

The key words, diagrams and site visit notes from these workshop can be captured and form the basis of initial masterplanning exercises.

Desired outcomes

- Build relationships and overcome the often adversarial relationship between council and developer
- Avoid the 'silo' effect between council departments from the outset
- Allow early discussion of potential council backed facilities
- Provide the opportunity to explore more creative and unique design solutions
- Ensure the core team are all 'on the same page'
- Assist a smoother Development Approval process in future phases

Who

- Developer - Client representative, Project Manager
- Design consultants to consider - Architect, Social Planner, Economist, Artist
- Council representatives to consider - Economic Development, Strategic Planning and Social Services

Steps

1. Familiarise the core team with the project and site including a possible site visit
2. Review the situation analysis including site context, challenges and planning issues to be considered
3. Identify potential project opportunities based on the situation analysis
4. If not already completed, create and capture on paper the Interim Project Vision, if in Victoria, consider the aspirations of the PSP
5. Identify potential broader stakeholders and project timing
6. Consider preliminary documentation and how this process will be captured



Worksheet 01 - Site Situation Analysis