



Meaningful Interactions: how can researchers and ‘publics’ get the most from PER

Public Engagement with Research – 17th April 2018

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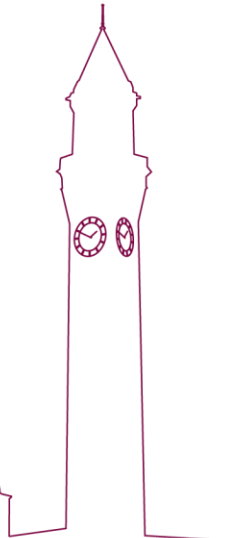
The Aim

is to shift the focus of public engagement from...

Talking about a finished research product

to...

how can communities more directly benefit from, and influence environmental science research agenda.....

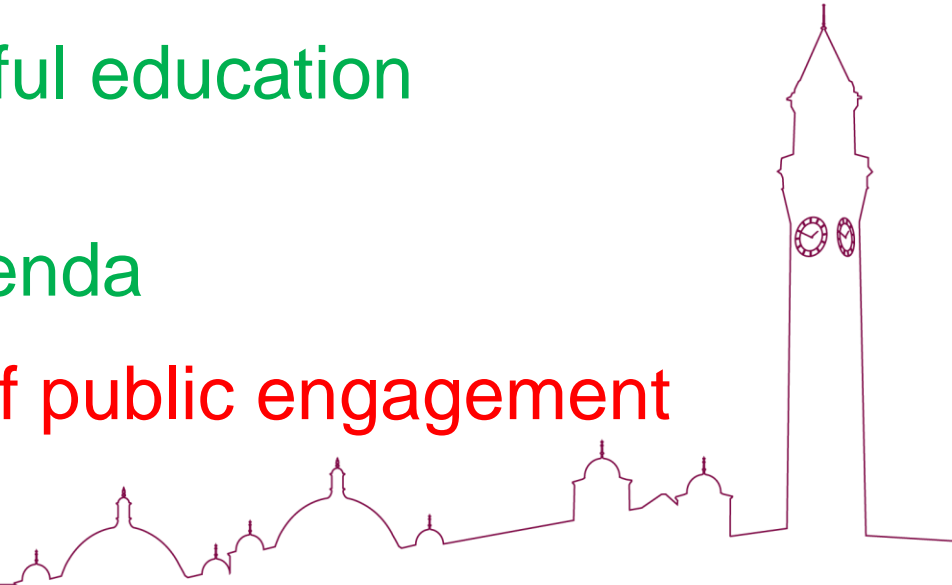


Goals

- Make research more clearly relevant to everyday life

Objectives:

- Establish relationships/partnerships/networks
- Build trust
- Educate/offer meaningful education opportunities
- Share the research agenda
- Change the narrative of public engagement
- Generate social capital

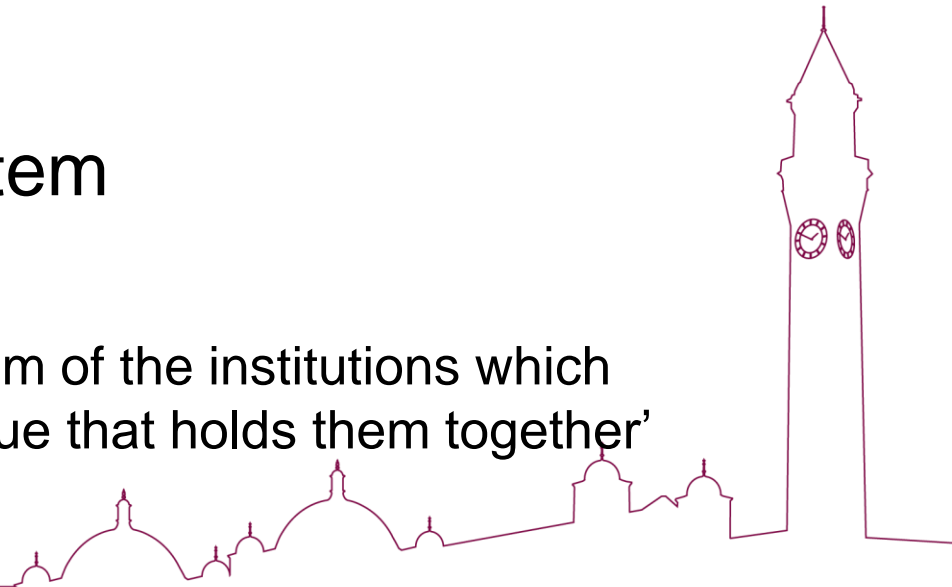


Community

Fellowship is heaven, and lack of fellowship is hell; fellowship is life, and lack of fellowship is death; and the deeds that ye do upon the earth, it is for fellowship's sake ye do them. (*A Dream of John Ball*, Ch. 4; first published in *The Commonwealth* 1886/7)

- Place
 - Interest
 - Communion
 - Network/local social system
 - Social capital
- } 'community'

- 'Social capital is not just the sum of the institutions which underpin a society – it is the glue that holds them together' (The World Bank 1999)



The ENCOMPASS scheme

- develop communities' capacity to recognise and articulate what environmental issues are relevant to them [**understanding**]
- enable communities to use this to make changes in their environment or society [**capability**]
- communities, in partnership with researchers, drive the environmental science research agenda [**innovation**]



The ENCOMPASS scheme

□ Communities

- Direct benefits through involvement
- Environmentally aware and informed society
- Social capital

□ Researchers

- Pathways to Impact
- Greater visibility and recognised value for research



The ENCOMPASS project

Partnership with

□ Citizens UK:Birmingham

- Community organising concept
- Listening campaigns
- research-action-evaluation

□ Earthwatch Institute

- Citizen science as a way to demonstrate what science can do
- Enable effective co-development



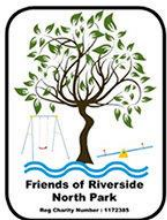
Some interim reflections

- 2 scales of engagement
 - A) small scale, short term, responding to specific issues
 - B) larger scale, long term, cross cutting project/scheme (not tied to a specific issue/project)
- Grant funding time scale/culture not conducive to building trust
- Training must include communities
- Issues seem to gravitate toward environmental health
- Framework will involve helping to provide community context for current PE activity (e.g. school visits, education activity)
- Sensible evaluation needs Phase II (i.e. at least 3 years)
- Culture change involves changing the narrative
 - You're so vain.....





KSIMC Birmingham
Mehfil e Abbas



CENTA



Abberley and Malvern Hills Geopark



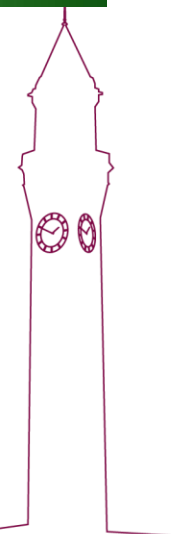
Black Country
Geopark



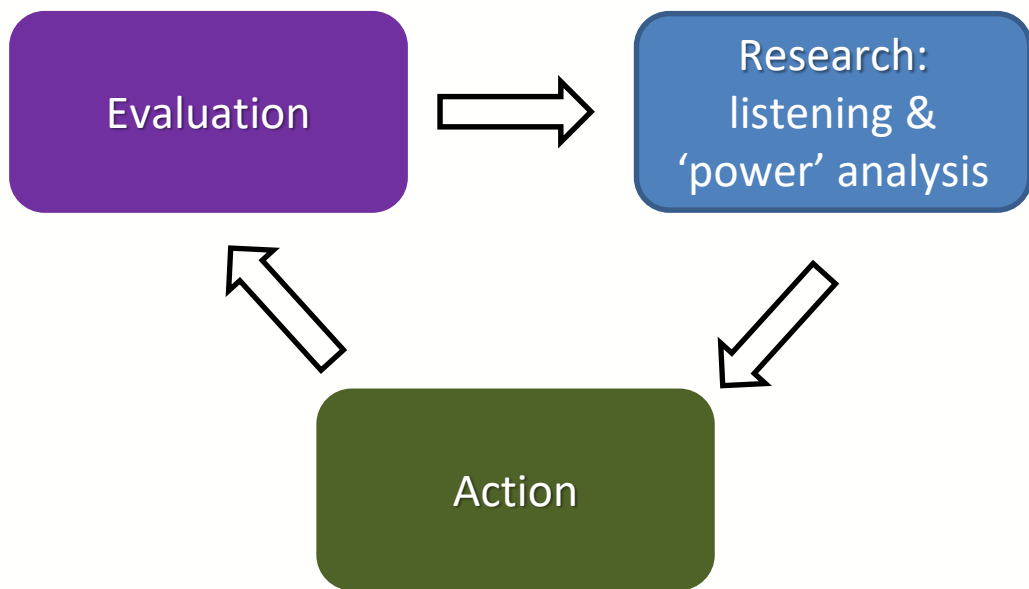
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CITIZENS UK



Working model (courtesy of Citizen's UK)



Listening Campaign

1-2 -1 meetings
Open listening
focused by personal
introduction by the
listener

House meetings
Range of attendees
often from 121s
focused on particular
issues

Neighbourhood walks
Brining in a wide
range of people to
see/hear where
change is needed



Listening Exercise Demonstration

1-2-1



Community Engagement Testimony

Monder Ram

Department of Management

Director

Centre for Research in Ethnic Minority Entrepreneurship
(CREME)



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**COSS CITIZENS
UK GROUP**



Framing your 121 Introduction:

Relationships

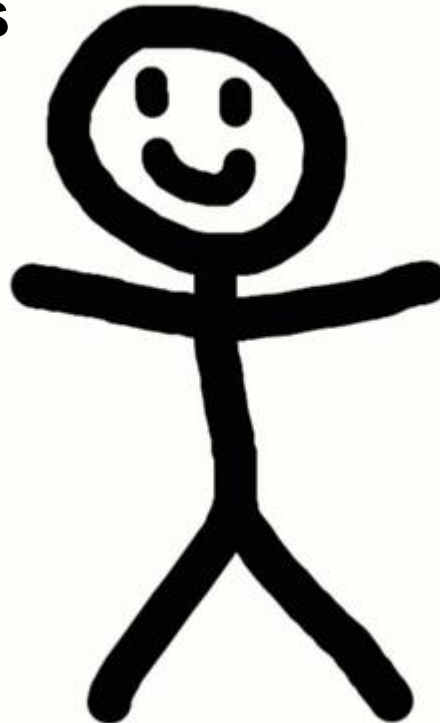
**How you spend
Money/Time/Energy**

Organisations

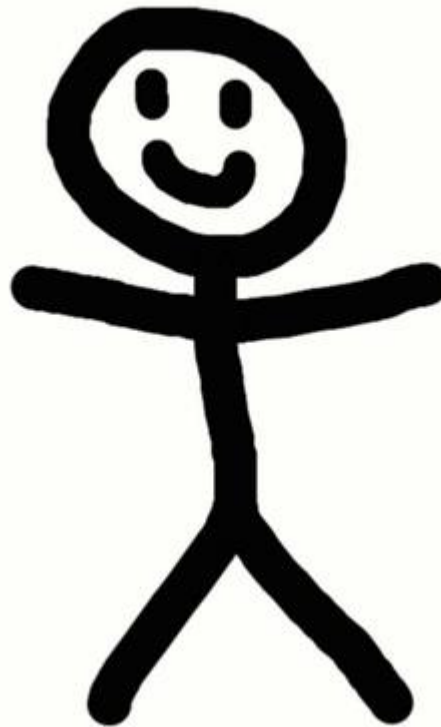
Moments

(memorable, life changing, important)

Hopes and Fears



Highlight what is important to you from these spheres of you life. Drawing on these will help you provide an introduction that hopefully resonates with the person you are listening to; helps you to listen and them to talk.



**Your turn: Construct your own
introductory question based on your
own story**