

# Citizen Inquiries and Community Engagement



## Overview

Our specialist community engagement work, led by Peter Bryant, can really have an impact. This is exemplified by our facilitation of **citizen led inquiries** on difficult topics such as alcohol use, Fracking or the reform of mental health services.

Through citizen juries, community-led design and our knowledge exchange work with higher education, we seek to work closely with local people and to build their social capital.

We help communities, and especially the individuals within communities that most marginalised from public engagement processes, to explore issues of public policy in inclusive ways.

We then support them to take action and where necessary connect to those with expert knowledge.

Producing outcomes that make a real difference to local people and to the work of public bodies.



Members of the Wirral Alcohol Inquiry prepare their final recommendations on how to reduce alcohol harm.

Contact us for more information, or visit the Shared Future website at [www.sharedfuturecic.org.uk](http://www.sharedfuturecic.org.uk)

## Case Study: Wirral Alcohol Inquiry

Commissioned by Wirral Borough Council and led by Shared Future, local residents considered *"What can we all do to make it easier for people to have a healthier relationship with alcohol?"* Over nine sessions, they were encouraged to think and talk about the impact of alcohol in their community. The group included people with direct experience of alcohol harm and those with none.

In the first session the group used participatory tools such as mapping and problem trees to talk about local assets and barriers. In the remaining sessions commentators were invited to present to the group on the issues prioritised by them during the first session. During the last two sessions the group produced a set of 21 prioritised recommendations.

Following on from the inquiry they presented the results to politicians, health service managers and other key stakeholders with the aim of changing how local policies and services were implemented.

The citizen-led recommendations focused on licensing, community facilities and activities, advertising, sales and availability, education, awareness and public services. The primary recommendation emerging from the deliberations of the Inquiry was to:

*"Limit the number of licensed premises and make it easier for the public to object to new ones opening. Educate the public that you can have a say on local licensing. Explore how we can make it easier for the public to have their say on local licensing."*

## Testimonials

Participants in citizen juries report considerable satisfaction after being given the opportunity to have their say:

**“Well-organised, easily approachable, made me feel at ease, made me feel my opinion counted.”**

**Community participant,  
West Midlands Mental Health Commission**

Professionals value the high quality proposals:

**“They have done this very ably, and through listening, learning, discussion and debate they have produced a highly useful list of recommendations for action, including a number of practical and perceptive proposals.”**

**Fiona Johnstone, Director of Public Health,  
Wirral Alcohol Inquiry**



## The Added Value Provided by Using Shared Future

The skills acquired within our community development work, and the support it brings to partnership working and co-production are considerable. Our portfolio includes:

- Citizen Juries;
- Community led asset mapping;
- Training of community researchers;
- Asset-based community development;
- Participatory video and story-telling;
- Open Space workshops.

Collectively our expert consultants have decades of experience designing, delivering and researching community engagement programmes, in the UK and internationally. Taking your project from the design stage right through to final evaluation.

### We can support your work through:

- Workshops on strategic thinking and how to implement an engagement strategy;
- Training for senior management and decision makers on co-production;
- Action Learning sets for professionals implementing co-production and community development approaches.
- Campaigning workshops for potential activists (e.g. introduction to campaign planning, strategy and tactics).

### Contact us

Our team of community engagement associates is led by Peter Bryant, and includes Nick Beddow, Ali Wheeler, Jenny Willis, Cheryl Simmell-Binning, Jez Hall and Laurie Smith.

To find out how they can support your community engagement work:

[info@sharedfuturecic.org.uk](mailto:info@sharedfuturecic.org.uk)

[www.sharedfuturecic.org.uk](http://www.sharedfuturecic.org.uk)

