

CHOOSING THE RIGHT METHODS

Using the scenario below decide what method(s) you would use.

Things you might want to consider include –

- Who needs to be involved here? How many people? At what stage?
- What type of information are you looking for? Opinions, views, concerns, reasons, new ideas?
- Would you use different methods at different stages of the process?
- How will you use the information collected?

Scenario 1

The local Village Hall is due to be replaced. You are part of the Steering Group, made up of members of the local community and users of the current hall, who have been asked to consult with the local community about:-

- *What they would like the new hall to look like?*
- *What sorts of activities they would like to see developed in the facility?*
- *What are the requirements of both existing and future users?*

Detail the method(s) you would use and why?



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Scenario 2

A new school has opened in your town. This has led to a vast increase in traffic trying to use previously quiet streets – particularly at school drop-off and pick-up times.

Apart from the congestion caused by the increase in traffic, parents are also becoming concerned about the safety of children walking or cycling to school. This has led to less children travelling to school this way.

You are part of the Parent Council and are interested in consulting with people about how this problem can be addressed.

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Scenario 3

Your local Community Centre is holding an Open Day.

You are part of the Management Committee organising the event. Your group has been discussing a range of new activities that you might be able to organise at the centre. You want to use the Open Day – which will be attended by existing users as well as others in the community – to find out what activities would be most popular and maybe get new people using the centre.

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Scenario 4

A Planning Application for a new supermarket to be built on the edge of your town has been submitted to the Council. You are a member of the Community Council and at your last meeting there was quite a lot of debate about whether the Community Council should support this application. You've decided you need to know what the rest of the community thinks, before you make your decision.

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Scenario 5

You are involved in a local resident's group. After years of lobbying the Council to provide facilities for young people in your area the Council have allocated funds to provide equipment in the local park. How do you make sure the needs of the young people in your area are taken into account by the planners?

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