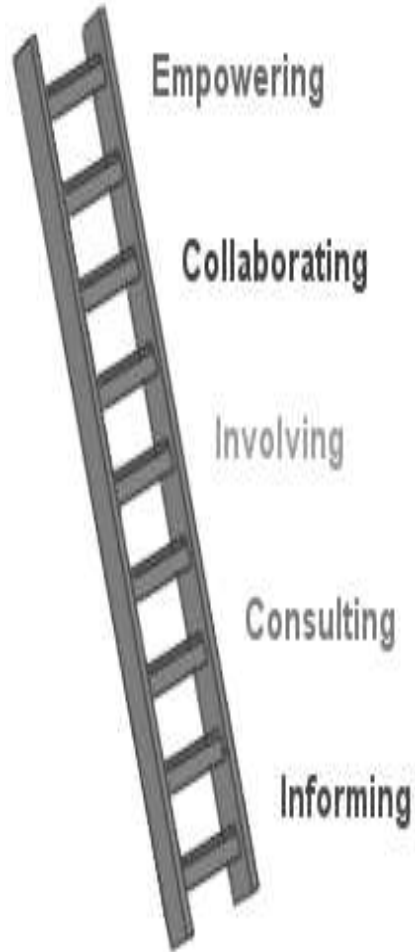


LEVELS OF PARTICIPATION

Arstein’s ladder of citizen participation (described on the previous page) suggests that some levels are always better than others.

In practice however different levels of participation are appropriate in different circumstances and at different stages of a process. What makes the difference is often the motivation of those leading, or encouraging, the participation.

Using the ladder below (which has been adapted from the Arnstein model) try to think of examples of participation you have been involved in (or know of) to illustrate each level. What has been the strengths and/or weaknesses in each case?



EMPOWERING gives people the **RESOURCES TO ACT INDEPENDENTLY** on community initiatives.
Here an organisation (or traditional decision maker) helps participants to do what they want.

COLLABORATING or joining in **PARTNERSHIP** with others means acting together to provide a service.
By **ACTING TOGETHER** not only do different interests decide together what is best, but also they form a partnership to carry it out and are equally responsible for the outcome.

INVOLVING means an organisation asking others to participate and help plan or run an event, service or policy.
Here participants are encouraged to provide additional ideas and options, and to join in with decision making about the best way forward (**DECIDING TOGETHER**)

CONSULTATION is about giving people **OPTIONS** about what **COULD** be done.
Consultations must be clear about what they are asking people’s opinion about and why, what can and cannot be changed and which decisions the results of the consultation can influence.

INFORMING tells people what is planned so that they are informed about what **WILL** be done or what will happen.

Your examples...
Empowering -
Collaborating -
Involving -
Consulting -
Informing -

