

INTRODUCTION

KAC was commissioned by Canterbury City Council to assist with the organisation of a 'Community Planning Day' in Wincheap, Canterbury which involved architects, architectural students, community representatives and local school pupils all working together to develop ideas for the future development of the area. A key issue for local people was the management of traffic through the area.

The aim of the day was to engage local people, including school children, in the debate about how this part of Canterbury might develop in the future, and feed their views back to the City Council.

In preparation for the day, an architect and planner worked with the teachers and 8-9 year old pupils from the local Primary School to explore their neighbourhood, and prepare visual material for display at the workshop.



In addition, an architect and planner provided input to architectural students from KIAD (Kent Institute of Art and Design) in their development of master-planning proposals for the area, which were also put on display at the workshop.

KAC were responsible for the preparation and organisation of the workshop event including development in detail of the consultation procedures, and a structured framework for the day's activities, in addition to managing the event on the day.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

The Jubilee Hall opened its doors to the public at 10.00am. Informal discussions immediately began between local people, various professionals and KIAD students. Ian Brown, Canterbury City Council, formally opened proceedings at 10.30am.

Following the introduction, the KIAD students were divided into 5 teams, and local people were invited to join in with one of these. Throughout the day various professionals joined in with the teams of students and locals. These included representatives from the following:

Officers from Canterbury City Council departments, including Planning, Architecture, Building Control, Environmental Health, Highways, LA21, Landscape, Conservation and Estates
Councillors from Canterbury City Council, in particular the local Councillors
Officers from the Police and Fire Brigade
Local Architects
Staff from the Architecture Centre



In addition to their contributions to the five teams, local people completed sticker charts, which were designed to quickly find out their priorities with regard to their locality and most also filled in a questionnaire, which had been prepared by the Architecture Centre, to find out in more detail their views on a range of local issues, such as shopping, leisure, tourism, transport and traffic. Local people were also invited to place a sticker on a map of the area to show whereabouts they lived or worked. These activities allow the opportunity for those less vocal, and with less time to make their views known and also provide useful information and data which can then be analysed at a later date.

During the day, a succession of local people provided very useful input to each of the teams, with much lively debate about a range of local issues.

After the lunch break, two classes of Year 4 pupils from Wincheap FP School took turns to visit the workshop. The children joined in enthusiastically with the on-going teams' discussions, and provided a different, but equally relevant, perspective on the work in hand. The children also added their views

via the sticker charts- their views were recorded with different colour 'dots', so that the similarities and differences between their views, and the adults' views could be seen.



After the event KAC analysed the data collected, and the master-planning proposals presented by the teams of architectural students before drafting and presenting a Report for Canterbury City Council



After the children had returned to school, the KIAD students had about a hour in which to finalise their ideas and proposals, and prepare their presentation material. Having been bombarded with such a range of input from both adults and children, the students faced no easy task in crystallising their conclusions.

At 4.30pm each team in turn presented their ideas for improving the Wincheap area, based on the input they had had during the day as well as the preparatory work they had undertaken as part of their coursework. Each team took about 15 minutes to present their ideas, and after each presentation they answered any questions that the audience put forward on their proposals.

At about 6.00pm, following the presentations, there was the opportunity for a more general discussion amongst both the audience and the KIAD students. It is fair to say that at this stage many of the participants had been actively involved in the day's events since 10.00am, and the intensive nature of the activities already undertaken meant that the final debating opportunity was not fully explored.

Ian Brown concluded the evening discussion by taking the opportunity to thank everyone for their enthusiastic involvement and contribution, particularly the KIAD students. Informal discussion during the day revealed that all parties involved had felt the whole exercise to have been interesting, constructive and very worthwhile.