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HOW ENGAGED ARE YOU REALLY?

Public engagement is a term that is increasingly used in cultural and academic circles amongst others. But what does it mean and how engaged are you really?

Public engagement - what does it mean?
Before we begin, it is useful to locate yourself within the term ‘public’ by ticking which of the following describe you:

- A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC
- PART OF A COMMUNITY / GROUP
- A SUBJECT
- A REPRESENTATIVE OF AN INSTITUTION
- A PROFESSIONAL
- A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY
- A CITIZEN
- OUTSIDE SOCIETY

Members of the public come from all different walks of life with a wealth of personal and social experiences that shape their views on the world. Please list three significant incidents that have shaped who you are:

1. 
2. 
3. 

How engaged do you like to be?
Please select from the following:

- I LIKE TO FEEL INCLUDED / I LIKE TO MAKE DECISIONS / I WANT TO BE IN CHARGE / I LIKE TO FEEL CONSULTED / I NEED TO BE INVOLVED IN EVERY DECISION, NO MATTER HOW SMALL / I LIKE TO HAVE CHOICES GIVEN TO ME / I COULDN’T CARE LESS / I AM HAPPY TO WATCH FROM A DISTANCE / I HAVE STRONG OPINIONS AND WANT THEM LISTENED TO / ITS NICE TO BE ASKED / PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE /

Describing public engagement
Which of the following statements best describes what you think public engagement does:

- It’s a two-way process
- It takes place between institutions and individuals
- It should be a congenial dialogue or conversation
- It can be confrontational
- It’s a way to share information
- It’s a form of participatory democracy
- It’s a way to gather opinions
- It’s a consultation process
- It creates an illusion of transparency
- It’s a process to make people feel included
- It proves decision makers are listening
- It’s a tool used by those in charge
- It’s an exchange of ideas
- It’s a better way to do things
- It’s a creative exchange
- It’s what politicians do when they’re out and about
- It’s what I do everyday

How do you currently connect?
Use the handy diagram below to list the Institutions you currently engage with and the ways you connect with them. For example you may write regular letters to your local newspaper, object to planning applications (public or civic engagement), visit theatres (engagement with the arts), or find yourself in trouble with the authorities (anti-social behaviour).
Modes of engagement
Engaging can take lots of forms, please use the follow list to pick out the ways that you often engage:
WATCHING / TALKING / LISTENING / AS A MEMBER OF AN AUDIENCE / FILLING IN FORMS / COMMENTING ONLINE / VOTING / PUTTING MY HAND UP / VISITING / READING / ENTERING A DIALOGUE / HAVING A LAUGH / WRITING THINGS DOWN / VOICING MY OPINION / MAKING AN INFORMED DECISION / CHOOSING THINGS / COMPLAINING / PRESSING BUTTONS / FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS / RE-ENACTING / BEING PRESENT / EN-COURAGING OTHERS TO DO THE SAME / INCITING / COLLABORATING / COMPLETING SIMPLE TASKS TO CONTRIBUTE TO SOMETHING BIGGER / REFLECTING / JOINING IN / I TRY NOT TO ENGAGE /

What motivates you to engage?
IT'S MY JOB / CIVIC DUTY / CALLING
IT'S INTERESTING / ON OFFER / FREE
TEA & BISCUITS / OTHER INCENTIVES
I LIKE TO MEET PEOPLE / GET INVOLVED
IT'S CREATIVE / IMPORTANT / INTERESTING
IT'S A WAY TO ENACT MY DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS
IT GETS ME OUT OF THE HOUSE

How have you engaged with this publication?
Please select the statements that best describe your levels of engagement with this publication:
I HAVE FILLED IN THIS QUESTIONNAIRE
I HAVE READ AND THOUGHT ABOUT EVERYTHING
I HAVE READ EVERYTHING
I AM IN THE PROCESS OF READING EVERYTHING
I HAVE READ SOME OF IT
I HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT READING IT
I FLICKED THROUGH IT, LINGERING OCCASIONALLY
I FLICKED THROUGH IT WITHOUT LINGERING
I THOUGHT ABOUT FLICKING THROUGH IT
I PICKED IT UP
I SAW IT ON THE SHELF / DESK
I HAVE USED IT FOR AN UNINTENDED PURPOSE
I NEEDED A PEN TO ENGAGE
I HAVE DECIDED TO DO SOMETHING ELSE

Measuring the impact
Measuring the impact of public engagement on members of the public can be useful to see if the intended outcomes have been achieved. How has public engagement impacted on you:
CONSIDERABLY / ALL THE TIME / SOME OF THE TIME / NOT VERY MUCH / A BIT / LESS THAN I THOUGHT / TREMENDOUSLY / NOT SURE / I DON'T THINK ANYTHING HAS HAPPENED YET / CAN YOU ASK ME IN A FEW DAYS / MONTHS / YEARS TIME

Questionnaires always run the risk of bias by asking leading questions. With this in mind, please state what question you would rather be asked:

We hope we have enabled you to better understand yourself when engaging in the public sphere.

Bristow & Lloyd

doi: 10.5920/radar.2014.146