

South Lambeth Regeneration

Michael Simms - January 2017

The challenge of encouraging residents to be involved in the Masterplanning* process of estate regeneration is always a big one, particularly when speaking with residents about it way before a single brick is laid or an agreed proposal.

At South Lambeth we engaged residents by presenting an opportunity for them to lay down their own thoughts of what is important to them. After some discussions about personal experiences of residents on the estate, a few resident representatives put together a wish list of things they would like to know about throughout the process. The list was a long one and was presented to the Regeneration staff and Development Management Team (DMT) to respond to by showing where each item on the list would fit in with the Master planning process. This was then used to identify training opportunities and to drive the right consultations at the right time. This enables residents a strong input into the process prior to submission for planning and throughout the longer term.

This has proved to be very successful as resident representatives are feeling more informed and feel better equipped to keeping their neighbours informed and encourage further involvement. Their input also allows adjustments to proposals without last minute changes to complicated plans.

We haven't sat back and finished there, following the introduction of a community space on the estate, we have held the first open day. This gave residents the opportunity to come in speak with a member of the Regeneration team, DMT and myself as the Independent Adviser as well as view models and drawings of the proposals, while giving feedback and asking questions. While the event was happening, the numbers coming through the doors were being monitored and the Independent Adviser and Engagement Manager were also knocking on doors and encouraging attendance, we had a steady stream of people are coming through all with the opportunity to speak with someone on the day.

Finally, not just satisfied with the 60 people attending on the day, the Independent Adviser has asked the DMT to produce video clips of the event and upload to YouTube. The clips will then be placed on the Council's website with each mini clip accompanied by a short survey question to gather more feedback on different elements of the masterplanning process and regeneration. Clips will be updated on a regular basis throughout the project and will assist us in gathering door step feedback.

*A master plan is a comprehensive plan of action consisting of a framework for a location that is due for change or development. Through stakeholder engagement and consultation feedback can be incorporated into the plan. A good master plan will describe and illustrate features for development such as landscaping, design and service provision etc and include reference to residents priorities and aspirations.