Community Rights made Real
Research and learning taking place in Dudley Borough

1. Overall aim

To enable community groups, particularly those who have traditionally lacked power, to take advantage of the new opportunities being created through community rights.

2. Objectives

1. Investigate local needs, circumstances, capacity and aspiration to take up Community Rights
2. Identify actions to meet these needs
3. Support and monitor implementation of an action plan around community rights
4. For those involved to develop confidence and capacity for future self-organised activity
5. Use evidence of needs, barriers and solutions to inform wider policy and practice

3. Benefits for groups involved

1. More awareness of opportunities presented by community rights
2. More understanding of community potential and needs in order to take up community rights
3. Gaining skills, knowledge and experience of using community rights throughout the process.

4. Method - participatory action research

1. We aim to involve all participants in fact finding, planning, activity and reflection
2. We will develop a continuous process of feeding in learning into the shared activity

5. Project Plan – as discussed by project team on 30 June 2011

Please note: plans will evolve as research and learning takes place to inform subsequent phases of activity.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Events</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plan project and assess awareness of</td>
<td>• Clarify outcomes and scope/working principles of project (see below)</td>
<td>• Planning group meeting (30th June)</td>
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<tr>
<td>community right</td>
<td>• Clarify time we can each devote to the project</td>
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<td>June 20th – July 29th</td>
<td>• Decide project roles (including admin)</td>
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<td>• Developing a methodology/framework for assessing learning etc (see below)</td>
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<td>• Develop a communication strategy including targeting, communication</td>
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<td>channels (see below), role of ‘communication champions’</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Develop recruitment materials for communication champions</td>
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<td>Dudley VSN event on Localism and Community Rights (20th July)</td>
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| Build awareness and recruit project participants | • Carry out surveys to establish a project baseline (online, at events, booking for events)  
• Information and analysis  
  o Voice framework  
  o Asset transfer  
  o SOA  
• Interviews with public and private sector partners  
• Begin recruitment of communication champions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | • Planning group meeting (?)  
• Induction workshop for community champions                                                                                                                                             |
| Aug 1st – Sep 9th                 |                                                                                     |                                                                                              |
| Engage with participants          | • Complete recruitment of community champions  
• Design information (what?) with communication champions  
• DMBC group to do likewise  
• Cascade information using communication champions and communication channels  
• Begin recruitment of participants to travelling pantry workshops                                                                                                                                                             | • Planning group meeting (?)  
• Communication champions meeting/workshop  
• 2 Travelling Pantry workshops to identify community assets (social and physical) and aspirations (10th – 21st Oct)                                                                                                           | Sep 12th – Oct 21st
| Co-design action plan            |   • Complete recruitment to travelling pantry workshops  
• Pull together findings of stages 1-3  
• Plan for stage 4 activity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | • Planning group meeting (?)  
• A highly participative, creative workshop to present findings and evidence and develop shape of CR action plan. Invite LSP Board members.  
• Present plan to DCP Board for sign up                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Oct 24th – Dec 2nd
| Reflect, capture learning, celebrate, prepare future action and dissemination | • Develop action plan  
This phase of work seeks to actively involve Dudley Community Partnership Board members and partners                                                                                                                                                                        | • Planning group meeting (?)  
• Outline/draft of research report  
• Re-survey                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Dec 5th – Jan 13th
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<tr>
<td>National roll-out</td>
<td>• Complete research report</td>
<td>• Planning group meeting (?)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Urban Forum’s dissemination</td>
<td>• Publish and disseminate research report</td>
<td>• Urban Forum Community Rights event</td>
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<td>of findings)</td>
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<td>(West Midlands)</td>
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<td>Jan 16th – Feb 24th</td>
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**What will happen to the research and learning?**

Urban Forum view community rights as potentially providing opportunities for communities but have concerns around the unequal take up of these rights. Urban Forum want to build on the project and evidence base developed in Dudley to inform a wide roll-out of support to members across the country.

Between December 2011 and March 2012 Urban Forum will deliver a series of Community Rights events across the country for their members and these will include the dissemination of the findings of the Community Rights for Real project in Dudley.

These events will follow on the Localism Bill passing into law in November 2011 (although it won’t be implemented until April 2012.)

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6 July 2011

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