

Case Study 010	from www.communityplanning.net
<i>Theme</i>	Urban Regeneration
<i>Project Title</i>	Bristol reinvigorate pilot
<i>Location</i>	Filwood and St Paul's, Bristol, UK
<i>Project leader</i>	British Urban Regeneration Association (BURA)



One of several pilots of the Reinvigorate method of bringing 'outsiders' and 'insiders' together for a day to generate ideas and momentum. The problems and opportunities of two neighbourhoods in the city were mapped out and broad consensus reached on a number of initiatives needed. Mostly these reinforced the approach already being adopted by local stakeholders. All parties found the event a useful and stimulating experience.

Context

Reinvigorate concept devised by BURA. The idea was to bring together representatives of 'local' and 'outside' expertise who would not normally meet to explore and work collaboratively on the physical, social and economic challenges facing real places.

A one day themed event was envisaged with scene-setting presentations, structured study tours, facilitated workshops, panel feedback, and a final debate.

A shortlist of possible locations and themes was drawn up to pilot the approach and two neighbourhoods in Bristol – Filwood and St Paul's – were selected with a focus on creating successful, mixed income urban communities; a theme of national current interest.

The Bristol Reinvigorate pilot event took place on 20 March 2007. A reconnaissance to plan the event took place almost one year earlier (3 April 2006).

Other pilot events were organised by BURA in Belfast (26 June 2006) and Tottenham, London (30 April 2007).

Filwood neighbourhood:

- 1920s residential 'cottage' estates with high levels of social deprivation.
- New business and leisure parks recently constructed nearby serving the wider city.
- Potential for increase of housing density identified within Regional Sustainable Communities Plan.

St Paul's neighbourhood:

- Inner city neighbourhood with longstanding ethnic mix, facing a range of challenges including drugs and crime, loss of employment land, lack of family housing and some key problem sites.
- Mainly Georgian terrace housing with a 1960s housing estate and pockets of commercial property.
- Strong community spirit channelled through St Paul's Unlimited
- Commitment from Knightstone Housing Association (KHA) to improve mix of tenure (introducing the first shared ownership units) and size (restoring subdivided houses to family accommodation).
- Much previous consultation on a Neighbourhood Plan but still some outstanding issues including implementation.

The Bristol Reinvigorate pilot event took place on 20 March 2007.

Process

Year Month Activity

2006	Apr	Planning session	BURA meets with stakeholders in Bristol to explore the project. Selection of Filwood and St Paul's neighbourhoods.
2006/ 2007	May Feb	Planning and preparation	Collation of background information, logistics, invitations, promotion, other pilot event (Belfast June 06)
2007	Mar	Reinvigorate event	<p>1-day, mid week, over 100 participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration at central city venue • Inspirational presentation (by architect and developer George Ferguson) • Participants divide into two groups. Separate tours of Filwood and St Pauls by coach and on foot, with commentary by locals, ending at workshop venues. • Facilitated workshops with working lunch to identify the challenges, assets and potential of each area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ First impressions - from the outsiders ○ Reality check - using local knowledge ○ Identify and agree key challenges and opportunities • Reconvene at central venue. Feedback presentations by each group to a panel of local decision-makers and regeneration practitioners • Panel response and discussion • Debate on how to create balanced and sustainable communities • Reflections on the day, reception and networking
2007	Apr	Follow up	Event notes, event report.

Outcomes

Successes

- Compilation of comprehensive listing of challenges and opportunities of each neighbourhood as perceived by insiders and outsiders.
- Useful insights on future direction in both neighbourhoods provided by participants and panellists.
- Stimulating and educational day for all participants.
- Lessons learnt on the Reinvigorate process.

Shortcomings

- Process not documented adequately or fast enough.
- Range of discussions and problems tackled possibly too broad.
- Lack of mechanisms for following up on outcomes, either locally or nationally.

Parties involved

<i>Party</i>	<i>Role</i>
British Urban Regeneration Association (BURA) www.bura.org.uk	Organiser
Bristol City Council www.bristol.gov.uk	Host, panel members
Urban Splash www.urbansplash.co.uk	Host, panel members
Knightstone Housing Association www.knightstone.co.uk	Host, panel members
The Bristol Partnership www.bristolpartnership.org	Panel members
South West Regional Development Agency www.southwestrda.org.uk	Panel members
Local community organizations	Workshop participants
Nick Wates, Nick Wates Associates www.nickwates.co.uk	Facilitator – Filwood
Tony Trott, Effective Social Inventions www.esi-consulting.co.uk	Facilitator – St Paul's

Funding and resources

Event sponsored by:

- Bristol City Council
- Urban Splash
- Knightstone HA

Costs limited to organisation of the one-day event: venue hire, transport, printing, facilitation, refreshments. Similar to costs for a conference but no income from participants who attended free.

Photos

Bristol reinvigorating process – in sequence



Registration

Outsiders get to know each other over coffee at the Institute of Directors offices in central Bristol.

Bristol01.jpg
© Nick Wates



Briefing packs

Background information on the local areas are distributed to participants on arrival

Bristol02.jpg
© Nick Wates



Introduction

Organiser welcomes everyone and sets the scene (Jess Steele from the British Urban Regeneration Association)

Bristol03.jpg
© Nick Wates



Inspiration

Presentation on creating mixed and balanced communities (by architect and developer George Ferguson).

Bristol04.jpg
© Nick Wates



Reconnaissance

Guided coach tour of the study area (Filwood) (by Paul Wood from Bristol City Council).

Bristol05.jpg
© Nick Wates



Arriving at workshop venue

Participants embark from the coach at Meade, Filwood

Bristol06.jpg
© Nick Wates



Process explained

Workshop process displayed on a flipchart by the facilitator (Filwood workshop)

Bristol07.jpg
© Nick Wates



Post-it note brainstorm

Results displayed on a wall (Filwood workshop)

Bristol08.jpg
© Nick Wates



Developing proposals

Participants explore ideas in small groups containing insiders and outsiders (Filwood workshop)

Bristol09.jpg
© Nick Wates



Developing proposals

Participants explore ideas in small groups containing insiders and outsiders and spanning a working lunch (Filwood workshop)

Bristol10.jpg
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Developing proposals

Participants explore ideas in small groups containing insiders and outsiders (Filwood workshop)

Bristol11.jpg
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Report back

Groups summarising their proposals and planning a presentation for the panel are filmed by a local TV station

Bristol12.jpg
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Documents

Reinvogorate Tottenham

Brochure produced at a similar pilot event

Download from website at: www.communityplanning.net/casestudies/casestudy010.php

Quotes

"It was great to work with a multi-disciplinary team on a real issue"
Participant at Tottenham Reinvigorate event

"An interesting opportunity for peer group discussion"
Participant at Tottenham Reinvigorate event

"The day was a complete success and has done 'what it said on the tin'; reinvigorated"
Participant at Belfast Reinvigorate event

Contacts and links

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