Promoting Dialogue

IN CHANGING TIMES

Ways & Means of ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

Involving community members in matters of public concern takes various

forms reflecting different aims. As the chart below also shows, these diverse modes of engaging others tend to see community members in a different light and result in varied levels of interaction with them.

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OBJECTIVE	Inform communicate information to others	Gather collect information or opinions from others	Discuss exchange ideas or debate positions	Dialogue engage with others to build understanding	ACt work together to implement ideas
This might look like:	 a health awareness (social marketing) campaign a public meeting with an expert panel 	a needs assessmenta surveya focus group	 a local forum a town hall meeting where options are compared 	 a kitchen table discussion a talking circle a walking tour 	 a joint-planning group a neighbourhood work party a community park project
What's happening?	 Predefined message to communicate One-way communication Others viewed as recipients of knowledge 	 Predefined framing of the issue One-way collection of data Others viewed as a source of information 	 Desire to reach a decision among competing views Two-way exchange to test ideas Others viewed as competitors 	 Open questions and active listening Two-way exchange to explore ideas Others viewed as peers 	 Collaborative effort Collective impact Others viewed as partners
Level of engagement	MINIMAL	MODEST	MEDIATING	MEANINGFUL	MOBILIZED