

Enquiry by Design

The Enquiry by Design (EbD) process is a planning tool that brings together key stakeholders to collaborate on a vision for a new or revived community. This is developed through a workshop facilitated by The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment. The EbD process brings key stakeholders together, to assess a complex range of design requirements for the development site, with every issue tested by being drawn.



Enquiry by Design is an important tool in developing sustainable communities; delivering masterplans based on enduring design principles, and developing the place-making skills of all participants in the workshop process.





THE ENQUIRY BY DESIGN PROCESS

How does an EbD work?

An Enquiry by Design (EbD) includes architects and urban planners, local agencies and authorities, landowners, the local community, voluntary groups, retailers and other interest groups. These stakeholders are actively engaged in the planning and design of their community, helping to build confidence and collective enthusiasm for the vision to be taken forward beyond the workshop.

By its nature, every Enquiry by Design is unique, developing a response appropriate to the specific site and issues raised by the local stakeholders.

The EbD process is tailored to the requirements of the new planning systems in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, at a range of scales and different stages of the processes, from structure plans to local plans and supplementary planning guidance. We are also currently adapting the EbD methodology internationally.

As the EbD process relies on a concentrated effort over a short period of time, assembling the right information in advance is critical. The process includes preparation and a lead-in period of approximately six months prior to the workshop.

The number of days for an EbD can vary as every site is different. However, it is normal for an EbD to run for five working days and to be preceded by preparatory sessions to explore key issues and familiarise key participants with the process ahead.



ABOVE: THE EBD PROCESS INCLUDES WALKED EXAMINATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT AREA (ROSE TOWN, JAMAICA, 2008)

What is achieved?

At the close of the EbD, the product is a shared vision for the development site, which is illustrated in a series of plans, including an overall masterplan. This vision is shared by everyone linked to the development, including those responsible for granting planning permission. This makes quick delivery of the plan more achievable.



JAMIE SHARP 2008

BELOW LEFT: AS THE EBD PROGRESSES, THE PROPOSALS ARE ILLUSTRATED BY ARTISTS (WHITENAP, 2008); BELOW: THE MASTERPLAN IS A SHARED VISION, RESULTING FROM ENERGETIC DISCUSSIONS WITHIN A WIDE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (NAIRN, 2008)



“The outcomes from planning affect everyone, and everyone must therefore have the opportunity to play a role in delivering effective and inclusive planning.”

Planning Policy Statement 1 – Delivering Sustainable Development

Who is involved?

The number of participants in a workshop can range from around twenty through to several hundred, at different points during the workshop.

Core team

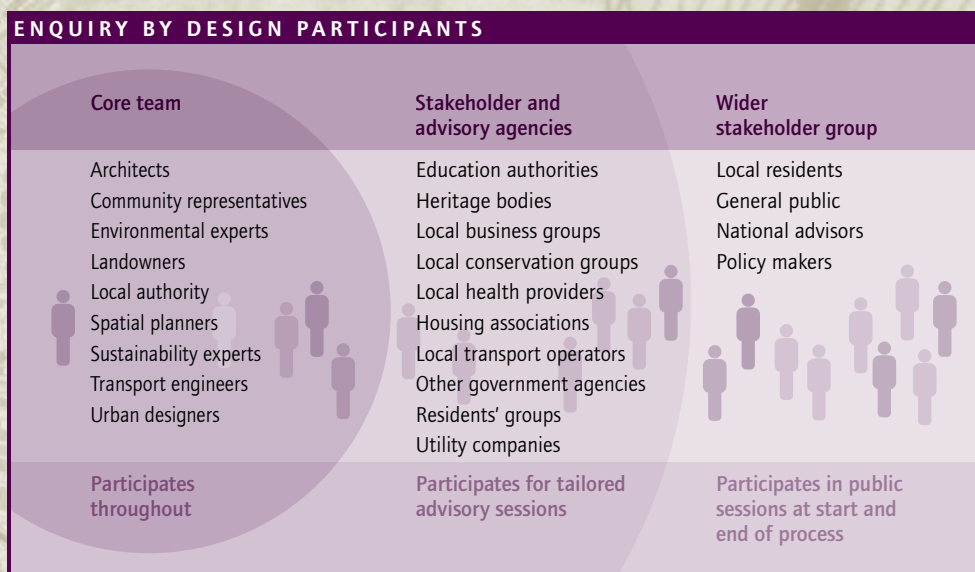
Landowners on and around the site, local politicians, relevant council officers and local community representatives need to be involved throughout the EbD process as they are the key decision makers. Along with The Foundation's Team, these parties attend all sessions.

Second tier

Representatives of any group, including regulatory bodies, with an interest in, and knowledge about, the site will be involved in a number of key sessions – actively inputting technical knowledge into the evolution of the site design.

Third tier

Other participants – anyone interested in development of the particular site – are engaged through public open sessions at the beginning and end of the process.



Further information on Enquiry by Design
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www.princes-foundation.org/projects

OVERLEAF AND COVER: AN ENQUIRY BY DESIGN IS AN INTENSIVE AND DETAILED PROCESS INVOLVING PARTICIPANTS FROM A WIDE RANGE OF STAKEHOLDER GROUPS (ROMSEY, 2008).



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The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment is an educational charity which exists to improve the quality of people's lives by teaching and practising timeless and ecological ways of planning, designing and building.

We believe that if we can understand and apply time-tested principles, building once more in a sustainable way, we will reap improvements in public health, in livelier and safer streets and in a more affordable lifestyle for families and individuals. The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment believes that building in a sustainable way will reap benefits for communities and result in neighbourhoods that accrue higher value over time.