

Final Micro Group - Note-taking template - Group 7

This is a space for you to take notes of the discussions in your micro group.

Members thoughts about results of the vote:

It would be interesting to take people from support to strongly support?
Recommendation 3 - maybe the local currency was a reason why people rejected.
What about the cost of implementing it? cost/benefit unsure, sceptical. If you start something, are you able to fund continuously, is it sustainable? Maybe people would rather put the money into security and safety. Maybe not everyone's preference to do activities with communities/people you don't know.. How do you incentive people who may not have considered going to particular parks?
Were people who were opposed not able to talk up in the discussion groups?

How members feel at the end of the assembly:

Generally fantastic experience, but...
Bit disappointed that people didn't turn on cameras in microgroup even though they weren't recorded. Seemed that these people didn't contribute as well. Facilitators could have encouraged people more to do this.
Enjoyed the process - some weekends felt really long, takes up your whole weekend, even though you did sign up for it. Maybe it could have been a longer period e.g. just mornings over more weekends
Sometimes it felt chaotic, more timetabling with actual times, not just rough schedule. Full weekend is a lot.
Maybe you would forget what you are doing if it was spread over too many weekends?
Particularly liked expert guests, but more time with them would have been nice, you got to be exposed to way more ideas.
All members said they would take part again.
Opportunity to speak with people you wouldn't usually speak with. Lots in common with fellow residents
People would have connected more in person
More organic in person - less
What if you need to go shopping at the weekend and you finish late?

Designing how citizens assemblies are used in Newham

1. Having shared your recommendations with the council, would you like to stay involved in the future?

- If so, how?
- Would you take part in a similar process in the future?

This should take place more regularly, to understand what is really going on in residents' minds.

I want to see how this one pans out before they launch into another one - how do we know its going to be successful? Success will create more confidence in the process.

Don't just do it for the sake of looking good

If they follow through with the recommendations, then they should do more, but if not, don't waste the time and resources

2. What kind of topics should future assemblies look at?

- How should these be chosen?

Parking, road changes, permits, transport - lots of things happened in pandemic that people aren't happy about

Crime prevention

Online voting - but concern about digital exclusion

Electronic log-in based on your ID for when you interact with council services, council tax etc.,

or keep in envelope when you send out council tax bills (concerns overburdening residents?)

If you don't make it easy, people won't engage -

3. The council have pledged to set up a 'standing' citizens assembly in Newham. What this means is still to be decided.

What role do you think a 'standing' citizens assembly should have in Newham?

- What links should there be from one assembly to the next?
- Should some participants stay the same, or should it be a different group each time?
- Should there be a chance for the wider public to feed into these assemblies?

Open up like the first one - don't think same people should be involved each time
Like the idea of going out to the public

What does good look like
1. Imagine the council has taken onboard all your ideas about how to use citizens assemblies. 5 years from now what difference has this made? What has changed?
We will see council implementing our recommendations, people are more willing to participate and will be an advocate for the council and democratic processes. Snowball effect, increased confidence - increased engagement People will want to live in the borough, will be attracted to it. Politically greater clout and influence at London level, more of a mandate because residents have asked for it.
2. When the council is designing how to use citizens assemblies in the future, what are the most important 3 things to think about?
Choosing people from wide cross-section of the borough Expert speakers for topics, to skill up participants