

MAPPING

Purpose:

A general opening exercise to allow a wide range of issues to be explored.
To allow people to explore and exchange general ideas on their area.
To indicate areas of concern and interest that could be followed up in other exercises.
To explore possible solutions to issues or problems.

How to:

1. Free drawing or modelling.

Ask participants to describe their area, to visualise their community the roads buildings, pub, shops, open green areas, etc.

Ask them to show you in a diagram or map where the different features are.

Provide materials for drawing or modelling. Use local available ordinary materials where possible. Strange or costly materials may suggest that this is a special exercise that can only be done with costly things.

Note what goes on the map first and how the map is built up. Probe particular features that go on the map where there is interest or tension or where things are not clear.

2. Marking features on prepared maps

Prepare street maps of the area. A3 is probably the smallest size that can be used for several participants.

Provide sticky dots of different colours. (more than three is possible but the map gets very cluttered and is hard to interpret later)

Suggest three different types of feature that should be identified on the map.

For example: *good things, bad things, (things that should be changed) and things of special interest to your study (e.g. places we get food, leisure facilities (where we relax, play sports, ...), health facilities, etc.)*

Use colour codes to identify the participants. (e.g. different colours for men and for women). Or use another system for people to identify who they are.

Replace the map when the dots obscure the main features and start again.
Collect and collate comments for further work.

OR:

Provide larger maps or plans of the area, say, A1 size or larger.
Stick map onto expanded polystyrene about 2 inches thick.

Provide cocktail sticks and Post-it notes in three colours that can be attached to the sticks like little flags. (A 3x5 Post-it can be cut to make three flags). Ask participants to stick flags in to show key features, as in mapping with sticky dots.

Ask those who want, to write on the flags things that they particularly want to add. Offer to write for those who may find it difficult or add drawings.

Collect flags and comments as possible issues to take forward to another exercise.

Listen, encourage, ask for explanations, probe, verify, expect the unexpected, don't dominate.