## Specialist Area: Participatory Appraisal (PA) Community Visioning

Public meetings and other traditional consultation methods often don't meet client and community needs. Participatory Appraisal (PA) refers to a set of principles and tools that:

- Enable community members to think strategically about the future development of their area (as well as addressing immediate issues which will inevitably arise).
- Facilitate an enjoyable, engaging process that focuses on community issues, ensuring participants do not feel 'disempowered' by the consultation.
- Provide outputs that can be used to develop practical options and responses (eg, in relation to district planning, infrastructure/asset management and urban design).

PA is increasingly being used in New Zealand and overseas to provide an insight into community preferences. The approach involves:

- Keeping things visual.
- Enabling participants to share their ideas in their own way.
- Providing an opportunity to prioritise and reach consensus about high-level outcomes.

Specific tools include:

- Township maps and background information.
- Small group work including community mapping, post-it notes and prioritisation counters.
- Semi-structured interviews on key issues arising.
- Management of expectations regarding how the information will be used.

APR staff have been involved in applying PA principles and tools in developing plans for a number of townships including Whangamata, Raglan, Ngongotaha, Te Karaka, Ruatoria and Arapuni.

APR Consultants would be pleased to discuss your council's requirements.

For more information on how APR Consultants can help you with Participatory Appraisals, please call toll-free on 0800-277-937.

## **APR Services:**

Participatory Appraisal

This is one of a series of APR information sheets available for download.

For more information about the range of APR Consultants services, please visit our website.

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