



RTPI

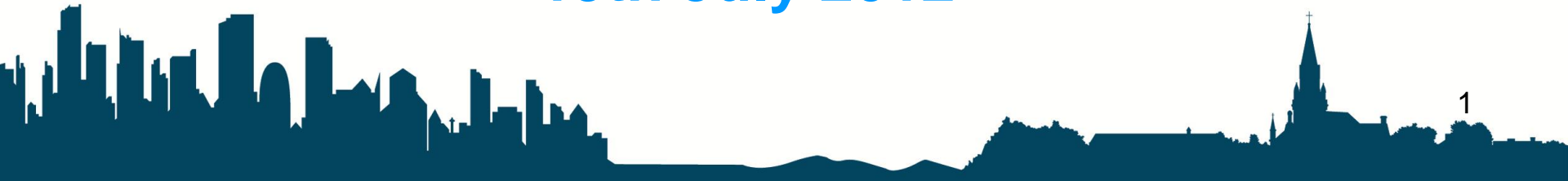
mediation of space · making of place

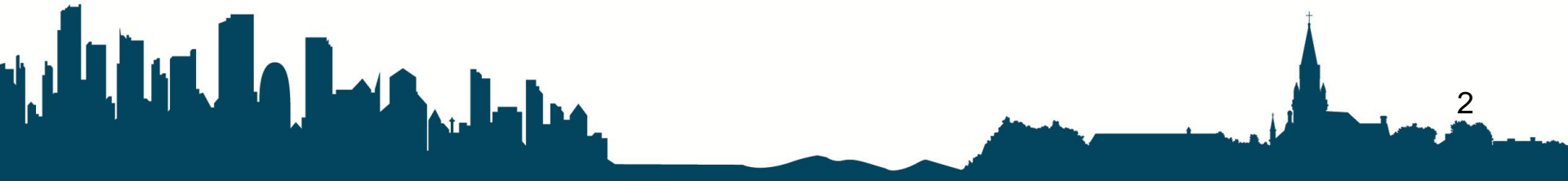
What Have We Learned From Community-Led Planning?

Prof Gavin Parker

NCALC Neighbourhood Planning Summit

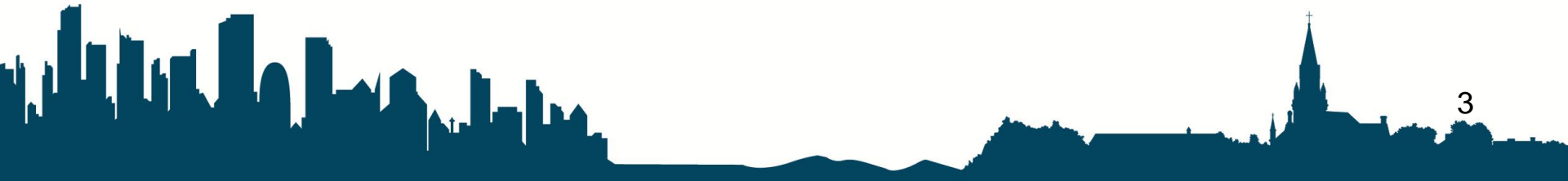
19th July 2012





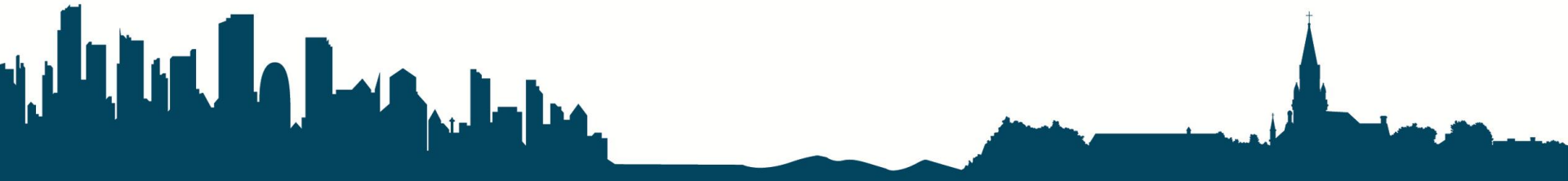
The RTPI

- *‘Furthering the art and science of town planning in the public interest’*
 - Charity
 - Learned society
 - Membership organisation

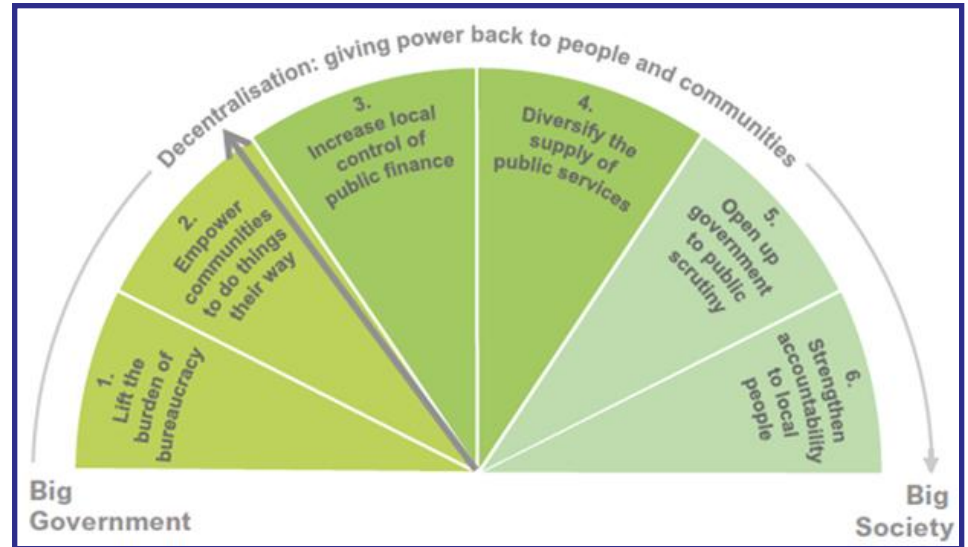


Outline

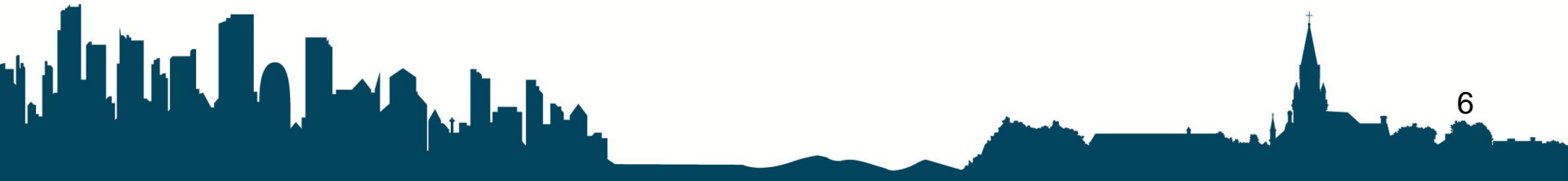
- Deliberately analytical...
- What have we learned?
 - Process
 - Outcomes
 - Issues
 - Relation to NP



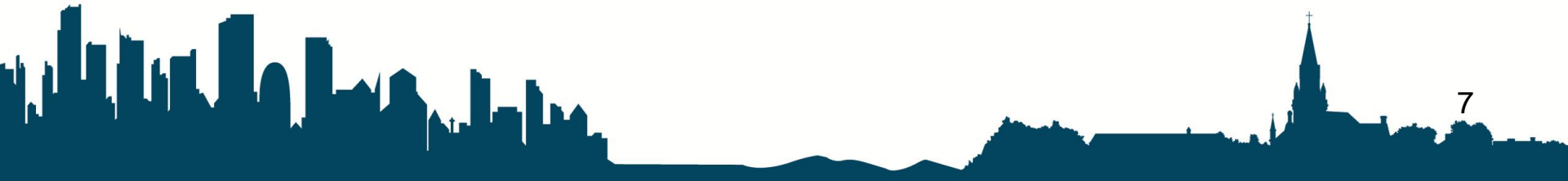
- Localism
- Not new...
- A little test...



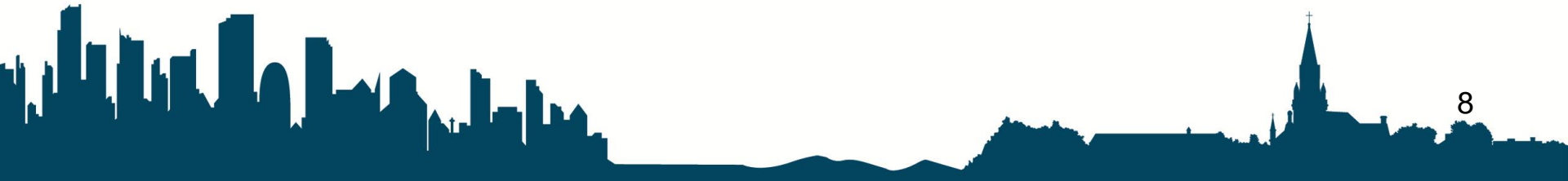
'At the heart of my politics has always been the value of community, the belief that we are not merely individuals struggling in isolation from each other, but members of a community who depend on each other, who benefit from each other's help, who owe obligations to each other. From that everything stems: solidarity, social justice, equality, freedom'.



‘a guiding philosophy - a society where the leading force for progress is social responsibility, not state control. It includes a whole set of unifying approaches - breaking state monopolies, allowing charities, social enterprises and companies to provide public services, devolving power down to neighbourhoods, making government more accountable’



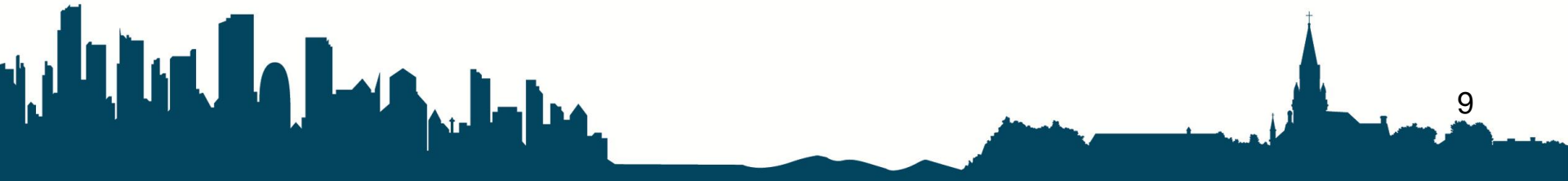
- NPPF:
 - *‘early and meaningful engagement and collaboration with neighbourhoods, local organisations and businesses...so that Local Plans, as far as possible, reflect a collective vision and a set of agreed priorities for the sustainable development of the area’ CLG 2012: para. 155).*
- Reorientating decision-making activities towards the local-scale by:
 - *‘dismantling the unaccountable regional apparatus and introducing neighbourhood planning’ (CLG, 2012: ibid)*



- Some theory...
- Social capital / Institutional capital

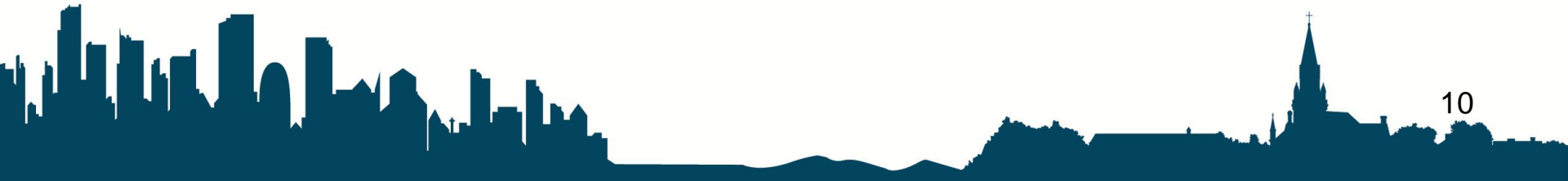
‘social capital reflects the structure of relations between and among actors’ (Coleman, 1990)

*Coherence of society ‘the norms and values that govern interaction among people and the institutions in which they are embedded’
(Grootaert, 1998)*



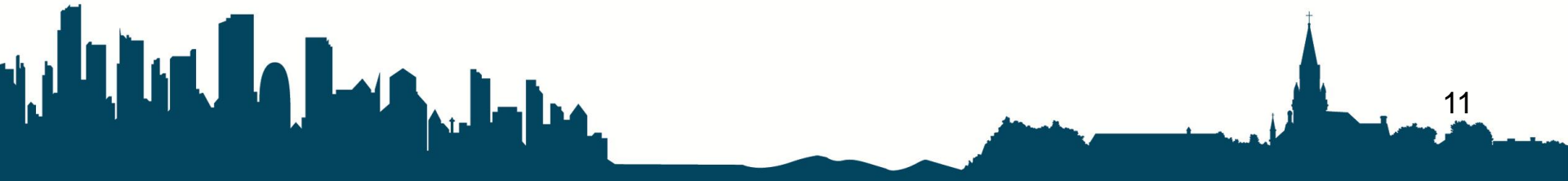
- Incentivisation...
- Financial; empowerment – both?

‘actors able to create their own interaction rules are often successful in achieving efficient collective outcomes’ (Olsson, 2009: p268)



“When people know that they will get proper support to cope with the demands of new development; when they have a proper say over what new homes will look like; and when they can influence where those homes go, they have reasons to say “yes” to growth.”

(Greg Clark MP, 18th November 2010)



- ‘Transaction costs’ and ‘Rational ignorance’ -

‘Rational ignorance occurs when the cost of educating oneself on an issue exceeds the potential benefit that the knowledge would provide’

- So, how to design schemes? how to decide to opt in?

- Community Led Planning...?
- Range of tools / processes
- Key feature should be that the planning is 'led' by the community.
- Agenda setting
- Broad / Specific



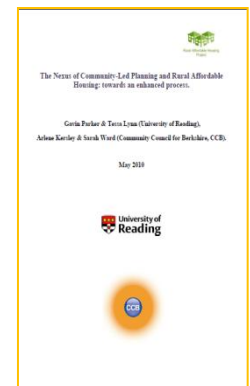
- Parish Planning
- Process important (Community development)
- Non-statutory
- Capacity-building
- Broad
- Contrast with and complement to NP...



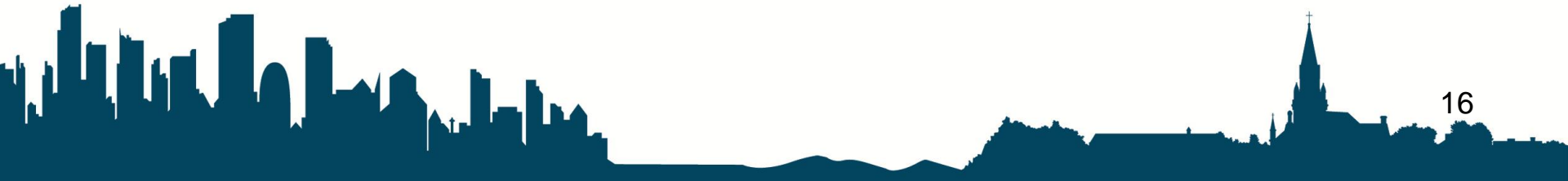
- Research studies:

1. PP Study of process and methods (2007)
2. CLP Study of attitudes (2009)
3. Housing and CLP (2010)

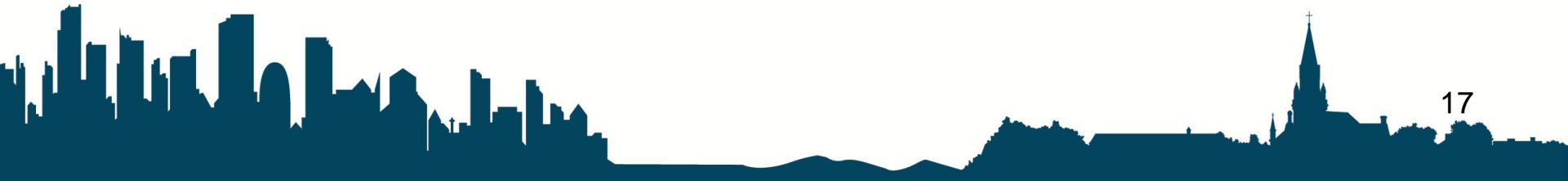
(Details available on request...)



- 1. Process / methods – issues
- CLP: quality, robust, trust
- Under NP: transparency, scrutiny, referendum



- 2. Learning, understanding – issues
- raising awareness and linkages.
Responsibility.
- Under NP: financial incentives, mitigatory influence (e.g. design)

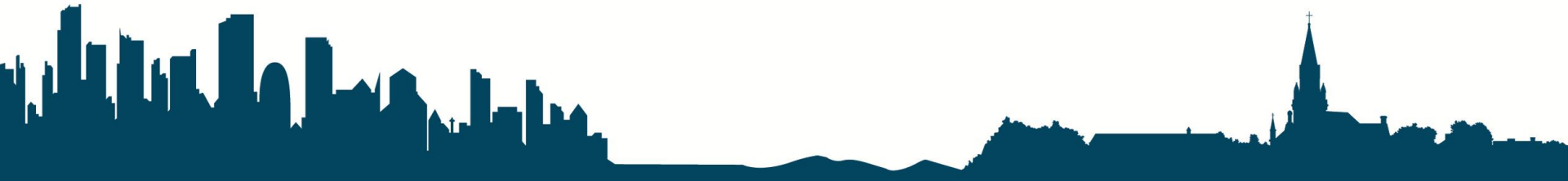


- 3. Attitudes to development
- Willingness to entertain new housing...
- Under NP: has to be 'pro-growth'

[Report published May 2010:

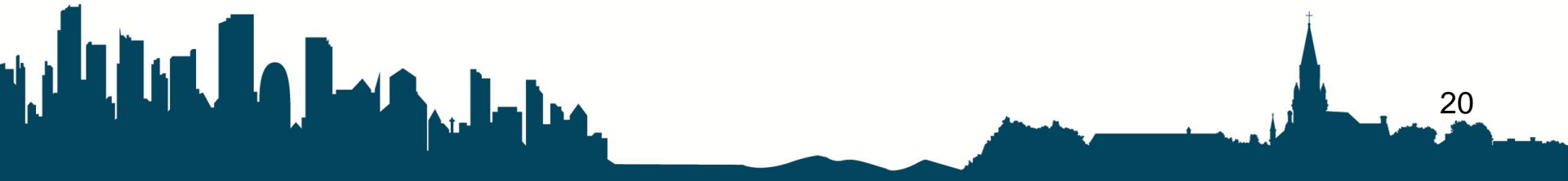
- <http://www.ruralaffordablehousing.org.uk/further-information/community-led-planning.html>]

- Some reflections on NP / CLP:
 - Engagement ‘good’ thing per se
 - Priorities and resources – when, why, how?
 - Cooperation needed; between actors
 - Support invaluable (and role of intermediaries important)
 - Flexibility and difference – use the tools to suit...



- Two types of outcomes:
 - Knowledge, understanding
 - Action, projects, development

‘Both are important to assist with durable legacy and resilient community planning’



- Ideal: combine CLP and NP where communities see the benefit.
- Long-term engagement and understanding of planning and its societal role
- PAE can advise and support...

‘Neighbourhood Planning as a Trunk Road with a NP at the end of it: may want to go the whole distance, may want to turn off at a junction. Your journey...?’

