



### 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.

Contact [paul.killerby@apr.co.nz](mailto:paul.killerby@apr.co.nz) or phone 07-349-8327.

### APR Services:

Strategic Planning

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

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