

Portland Revisited

e-Bulletin #17

In this bulletin I describe my role in a trip back out to Portland, Oregon; to work with a group of residents that want to contribute to a process of neighbourhood improvement. My job is to repeat the approach we

used in Hebden Bridge, and work with residents to build a model of their priorities and aspirations such that they can be presented to the city in a structured way (and all in just four weeks!).



In this bulletin:

- Taking participatory modelling work to Portland
- A closer look at the outputs from the final workshop

Initial findings from the sixth workshop

The sixth and final workshop in Hebden Bridge involved less modelling and more discussion than in previous workshops. The aim is to present key findings from the project over the next few months, including:

1) **Project report**

A short report with the key findings and graphics from the workshop process, including how to access and continue to use and update the model.

2) **Public display**

A series of posters and banners for public events so that the general public can discuss the approach and its findings with us.

3) **Public event**

Working closely with the Environment Agency and Calderdale Council, we will hold a stand at a future public event (planned for the autumn) to showcase our collective research.

Background

Several areas of the city of Portland have streets which are 'unimproved'. In the UK this roughly equates to an un-adopted road. The city government are interested in improving these streets such that they can meet city guidelines, especially in terms of water quality issues from surface runoff. The cost of any improvements would be borne by the community themselves, and the cost of bringing the street 'up to code' (i.e. meeting all of their guidelines) is prohibitively high, especially in less affluent areas.



A team of researchers from the UK has been asked to design and evaluate potential green infrastructure solutions to deal with the water quality issue, and offer a cheaper alternative to residents whilst offering multiple benefits to the city.

Working with communities

Whilst having improved streets may seem great to most people, there are concerns that renters would be forced to move out as house prices (and rental values) increased. There are also people who seem happy to leave the streets as they are. As the issues are complex and views conflict, working with the community to understand their priorities for the streets (what they see as important to them – and hence what they are looking for in any potential design) is paramount. Resident's views will be key to designing a scheme which is successful, and has community support. My work will look at structuring their views in a way that allows them to come to consensus about what they want to see in their neighbourhood; and then presenting it back to the city so that their views are represented in plans for the future.



Many of the outputs described on the left are already progressing. For an update feel free to contact me on:

Shaun Maskrey
shaun.maskrey@nottingham.ac.uk

07887 398337