Character, place-making and community engagement

Matthew Griffiths
Exploring your town

- Streets and spaces
- Buildings
- Toolkit
- Glossary
Facilitation needs good community development skills

The process can be rewarding, but slow

Historic development v. present-day character

The process needs to be managed to achieve ‘quick wins’ for a public partner
Porthcawl

More than meets the eye

a character study by the Porthcawl Civic Trust Society

Draft first report
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Extending the toolkit
Voluntary sector gains

- Community engagement and capacity building
- Responds to intuitive sense of place
- Applicable at different scales
- Relevance to case work
- Local authority ambivalence?
The importance of the ordinary
The greatest show on earth?

- Every place is interesting
- People and place make character
- Local meaning deserves respect
- *Places* – not ring-fenced areas
Issues

- Objectivity
- Role within the system
- Heritage and planning
Questions

- A role for community partnership?
- A role for characterisation beyond the heritage?