

Mike Swain



Research - Skills are in a range of qualitative methods based on a long involvement in community development activity. Aware of the limitations of questionnaires and their role in providing insights into community needs. Have researched in a range of settings and contributed to a number of reports which have broadened understanding of community need.

Project development - Responsible for project development activities during the past 20 years. In community development, being able to respond to community ideas on a broad front is important in ensuring that opportunities are taken when they arise. Project development demands a number of skills including funding knowledge, understanding of legal structures, ability to develop effective business plans.

Project management - Management in a community development setting presents a major challenge in ensuring that there is participative engagement in the process. This is often difficult to do successfully when management becomes complex and extensive. Have been responsible for managing a department of community development officers at a medium size community based housing association. Currently responsible for a wide range of project management in a SRB programme.

Monitoring and evaluation - This is an essential element of the community development process. In recent years, monitoring and evaluation have become key and ongoing elements of regeneration programme procedure. They remain however good practice in community development. All project development requires review procedures to ensure that lessons are learned and that there is stakeholder feedback.

Recent Consultancy Experience:

All Saints Action Network Ltd (ASAN) - Wolverhampton

Responsible for the implementation of 'Planning for Real' exercises, Focus Groups on housing issues and open-ended questionnaires on community aspiration studies. Developed a Research Team Model based around local residents, which incorporated training and development, which also promoted the potential for social and private enterprise.

ASAN- Royal Hospital Shopping Survey

Management of a residents baseline study on behalf of Wolverhampton's New Deal for Communities. Management of market research into workspace demand and supply in Wolverhampton.

Social Enterprise Development

Project development experience is in the last five to ten years principally linked to social enterprise development. This has been in a variety of fields including credit unions, food co-op's, construction companies, research initiatives, social care agencies, car parking and transport.

Baseline Project in Wolverhampton

Management and setting up of this community development Intermediate Labour Market project.

Local Area Management Pilot in Wolverhampton

Development of a community forum infrastructure and follow up actions. Management of LAMP and its neighbourhood management developments.

Southside Sports

Development of a sports site with a complex sports programme based in Wolverhampton.

All Saints Action Network Ltd

Management of ASAN as development trust model.

SRB, ESF and NDC Responsible for overall monitoring and evaluation of SRB, ESF and NDC project activities. Particular interest in using social auditing as an evaluation exercise. Supervision of ESF, SRB and NDC project monitoring and evaluation.

Social Accounting

Management of Black Country Housing Association Social Accounting cycle.