

## Community Engagement in Land-Use Decision Making

### Land Agent Training: Benefits of Community Engagement

#### The Landowner/Manager



- Fosters positive and productive community relationships
- Creates a greater sense of trust in landowners and managers
- Landowners are seen as valued members of the local community who contribute to its wellbeing and sustainable development
- Builds essential local knowledge and understanding of wider concerns, experiences, aspirations and constraints
- Heightened awareness of the environmental, social, economic and cultural impact of land use decisions.

#### Community



- Enhances community empowerment, wellbeing and cohesion
- People feel their views are heard and valued
- Can create opportunities for less well-heard sections of the community
- Creates a wider understanding of good stewardship and high standards for land management, and greater appreciation of issues and constraints
- People are better informed, feel more involved and better connected
- Creates opportunities for greater community land use, access, management and ownership
- Development of mutually beneficial solutions.

#### Business



- Helps inform decision making
- Facilitates collaboration and co-production for projects
- Can reduce conflict, delays and misunderstandings
- Can reduce the number of objections and complaints, and save time by avoiding appeals
- Promotes innovation and fresh thinking
- Can make statutory engagement and consultation more effective
- Enables community aspirations to be reflected in business decisions
- Reputation and competitive advantage of business can be improved
- Helps to achieve compliance with other ethical and social responsibility standards.

#### Land



- Develops a collective sense of responsibility and care for sustainable land management
- Can resolve perceived conflicts between community development and environmental protection
- New or more productive uses can be identified for land
- The negative impacts of vacant and derelict land can be tackled
- Empowered communities are more able to collaborate to address their own needs and to deliver conservation initiatives and manage protected sites
- Ownership of land may become more diverse.