

Outside the Box Consultations

Outside the Box Development Support began in 2004 to help people create positive solutions to shared challenges.

With our experience working with diverse organisations across Scotland, our consultations are tailored to each unique context.

The value of meaningful consultation

Good consultation is a powerful tool, connecting people and valuing their knowledge. Instead of a tick-box exercise, consultation should be tailored to each context, building on strengths and making sure people feel listened to. It can also support you to gather evidence for funding applications, and create plans that reflect the priorities.

Consultation can lead to lasting positive impacts, helping to:

- Find out about local strengths and gaps.
- Create Community Action Plans.
- Invite new ideas and different experiences to the conversation.
- Adapt, update, or change services to meet what people need.
- Feed into local policy and strategies.
- Support positive, trusting partnerships and working relationships.
- Bring people together to create community connections and voice.



Get in touch with us by emailing Christine@otbds.org or using our contact form (www.otbds.org/contact) if you'd like to discuss how a consultation could best benefit your work.

Our Outside the Box approach

We consult by meeting people where they are and choosing methods they can best engage with. We use a range of techniques, including digital, traditional and creative methods. Whether online or in a local hall with tea and cake, we take a flexible, appreciative approach to get the best result for each community.

Making consultations accessible, inclusive and useful looks different in every context, so all our consultation work is bespoke.



How we do it

- We make it easy to participate. It helps to offer different ways to take part – focus groups, one-to-one conversations, community events, surveys and more.
- We go where people are – like community groups, bus stops, supermarkets, and popular local places and outdoor spaces.
- We share the feedback in lots of different ways. The community may want to share a classic report, see a consultation come to life in video, or continue the conversation on social media.
- We use flexible approaches that fit around busy lives and build upon previous work and existing activities.
- By asking different people, you will get fuller answers. We make sure consultations listen to a diverse group of people.
- We focus on the positive aspects of the community, the things that matter to people and how they want to live their lives.

Examples and Testimonials

Tealing Community Consultation

We were commissioned by the Tealing Development Trust to develop an action plan for the village based upon local people's views and ideas. The action plan sets out priorities for the village, on good ways to use a community benefit fund from Seagreen Energy.



"The OTB consultation involved the whole community from primary school children to the older folk. We had a survey and community events, played pickleball and the teenagers made TikToks telling us what was important to them" - Tealing Development Trust



Moray

We supported Moray communities with engagement and learning around people's experiences of fuel inefficiencies and climate change, making it easier for community-led initiatives to take the work forward.



"Outside the Box helped us to shape our ideas and priorities and also made sure that the quietest voices were heard" - Moray resident

Renfrewshire

We were commissioned by Renfrewshire Council to deliver community consultation events to find out what people wanted from a new head injuries service in the area, informing the design of the new service.

"We enjoyed working with the team at Outside the Box. Their flexibility and the speed at which they were able to get things in place was impressive. The in-person sessions I attended were certainly delivered with compassion and professionalism, and it created a great environment for people to express themselves openly. It's been a real pleasure to work with them." - Renfrewshire Council

New Cumnock

We helped New Cumnock welcome everyone's ideas and create their Regeneration Masterplan - a shared vision for the community's future.

"We had a whole weekend of activities, and we couldn't believe how many people got involved. And the report really helped us to decide what we wanted to do as a community" - New Cumnock Development Trust



Get the right consultation for you

Costings

We understand the needs of different organisations - big and small - and we can help you get the most value and impact from a consultation. We can offer a bespoke consultation package tailored to the scope of the work and your budget.

Flexibility

Flexibility is one of our strengths. As well as working in a way which suits you, we adapt our consultation to fit with the busy realities of the community we're consulting with. We can do light-touch, issue-specific and in-depth consultations, online or offline, always with our friendly, flexible approach.

Get in touch with us

Get in touch with us by emailing Christine@otbds.org or using our contact form (www.otbds.org/contact) to talk about your ideas and what your organisation needs.



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