

**Rufopoly UPDATE 1 : February 2015**

This briefing sheet will provide you with a regular monthly update on the progress of the Rufopoly project. It will also alert you to upcoming events and actions.

**The full list of project partners are as follows:**

**Education** : Birmingham City University; Queen Mary Grammar School Walsall; Rural Futures Institute Nebraska, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

**Government:** DEFRA, Scottish Government South Downs National Park Staffordshire County Council Winchombe Town Council

**Non Departmental Public Bodies** : Natural England; Natural Resources Wales

**Partnerships** Localise West Midlands; Landbridge

**Private Sector**: David Jarvis Associates; Rural Strategy

**Professional Bodies:** Royal Town Planning Institute, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

We are also working with colleagues in South Australia to try and incorporate them into the project within an exciting peri urban initiative in the Adelaide Hills. We hope shortly to have an update on this.

**PROGRESS UPDATE :**

**Work Package 1 December 2014 – March 2015**

*This WP is obtaining critical feedback on peoples’ experiences (players; facilitators; observers) with using Rufopoly in terms of its effectiveness as a participatory tool. Particular emphasis is placed on its strengths and weaknesses in terms of your particular agency and individual priorities and work needs. Peoples wider experience of using/developing other game formats is also most welcome.*

A written request by Claudia Carter Claudia.Carter@bcu.ac.uk for critical feedback and reflection on your experience with Rufopoly has been sent out to all partners (December 2014)**.** In some cases we are arranging dedicated sessions with partners to introduce/reintroduce the game and seek collective feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of the tool therein (eg Queen Mary; BCU; Defra; Scottish Government; Staffordshire; Winchombe; RICS; RTPI). **Please let us know if you wish to have a session**.

We are excited that Rufopoly is also involved in the Cambridge Environmental Forum meeting in March where up to 100 people will be playing giving us further evidence to draw upon.

**If you have not sent in your response can you please action this to ensure your views are fed in from the start of the project.**

OUTPUT: From our collective inputs we will produce a synthesis report by 7th April 2015 which will brief you in readiness for WP2.

**Work Package 2 April- May 2015**

*This WP is based around a series of workshops in Birmingham, Aberystwyth and Edinburgh. The workshops will collectively identify a design specification for an improved participatory tool. The core project team will then design this for field testing in WP3.*

**The following dates and venues have been confirmed:**

**Birmingham (BCU Millenium Point) Tuesday April 14th 10-4 Aberystwyth Welsh Government Offices Friday April 17th 10-4**

**Edinburgh: week commencing 21 April TBC**

Project partners should try to attend at least one workshop. One goal of the project is to promote knowledge exchange and experience across the workshops and therefore you might usefully send a colleague to another workshop to share experiences. We are pleased to announce that our US and Swedish partners will be present to highlight their experiences in using Rufopoly in particular projects. We are also hopeful that we might be able to draw upon the South Australian initiative.

The format of the workshop is dependent on the results of WP1 report but a rough agenda is presented below.

*Welcome*

*Participatory tools and scoping of our project (from game to resource kit) (BCU team)*

*Practical applications and experiences of Rufopoly and other game type formats in projects/Discussions (Project partners + invited guests )*

*Formal survey responses and emerging themes /Discussions (All)*

*What kind of participatory tool/resource do you want. Workshop (All)*

*Where next BCU/David Jarvis Associates*

OUTPUT Each workshop will produce a collective view on the kind of tool and resource kit that can be developed. An overall synthesis document with action plan for the core project team will be produced. This will result in the development of a resource kit for piloting in WP3.

**What next**

**Work Package 3 June to September 2015**

*This WP is based around your agency field testing the resource kit in any opportunity that presents itself. The idea here is that you identify any problems supported by a BCU mentor. If there is not a feasible opportunity we will arrange bespoke workshops to bring partners together in a hypothetical project. We will also look to link partners to each other to help support real life examples where this is appropriate and desired. The feedback from these experiences will allow for a final set of amendments*

**Work Package 4 November 2015**

*This is the final conference which will be in Birmingham. Here the resource kit will be launched and we will be asking project participants to share their experiences in using It and considering how to effectively roll out the resource kit. We hope to have world wide live streaming and also connect with Sweden and the USA speakers using the latest technology.*