



Public Participation: 'Theory and Practice'

LCA CPD Training Course, 26th May 2010

Alison Harvey,

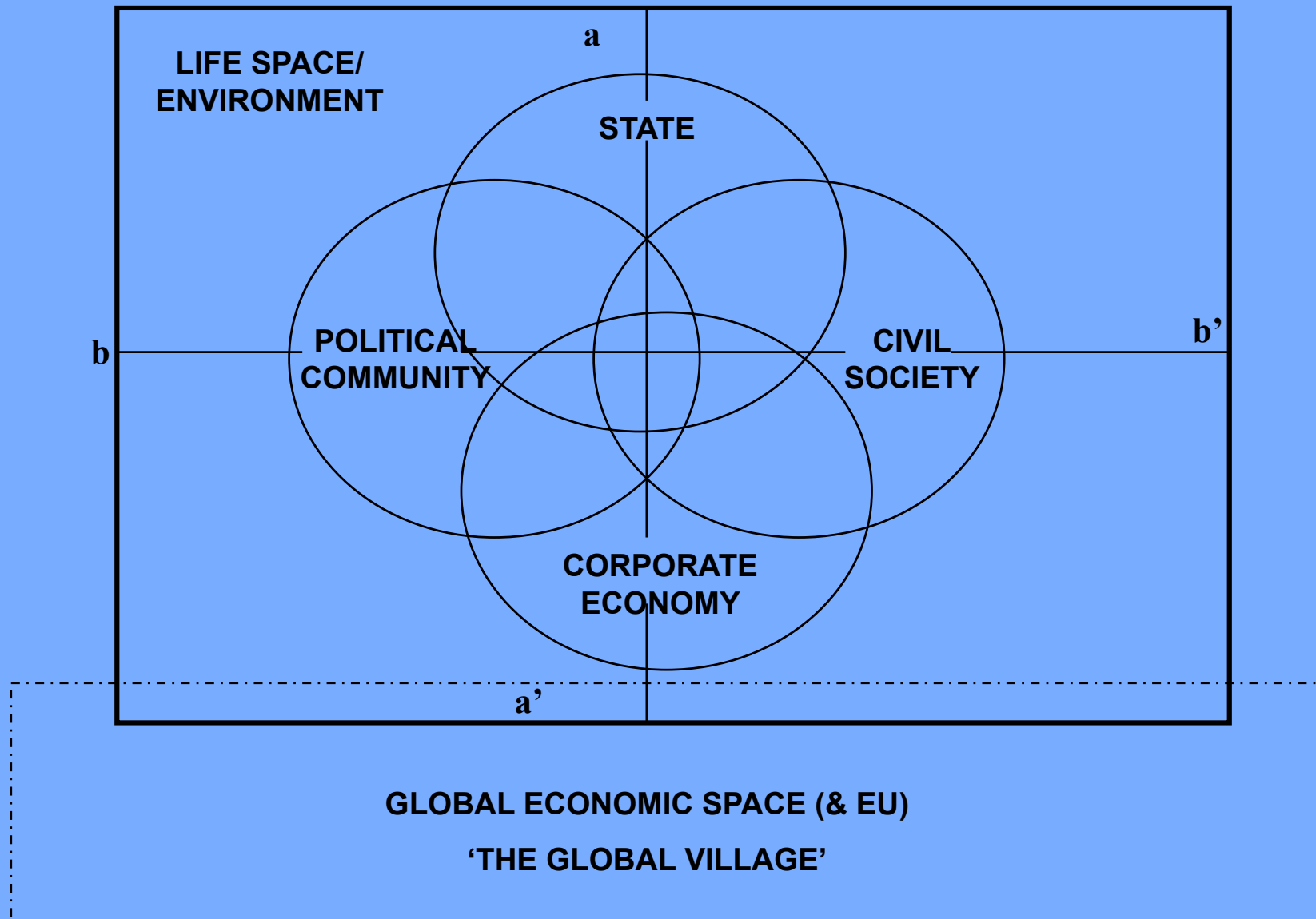
Planning and Development Officer,

The Heritage Council

Introduction – Three Parts

- 1. *The Theory*** - What is meant by Collaborative and Participative planning - 'Models'?
- 2. *Barriers to Participation*** – Cultural and Social
- 3. *Social Structures*** and Incentives

But first – an Overview!



1. What is Participation?

- The corporate economy **must** be reined in – leading towards an ‘Active Society’ (Etzioni, 1968)
- Social Learning = Social Empowerment (Friedman, 1992)
- Community Spirit – need to strengthen the community as a **moral infrastructure** (Etzioni 1993)
- Empowerment **is** Participation (Wilcox, 1994).

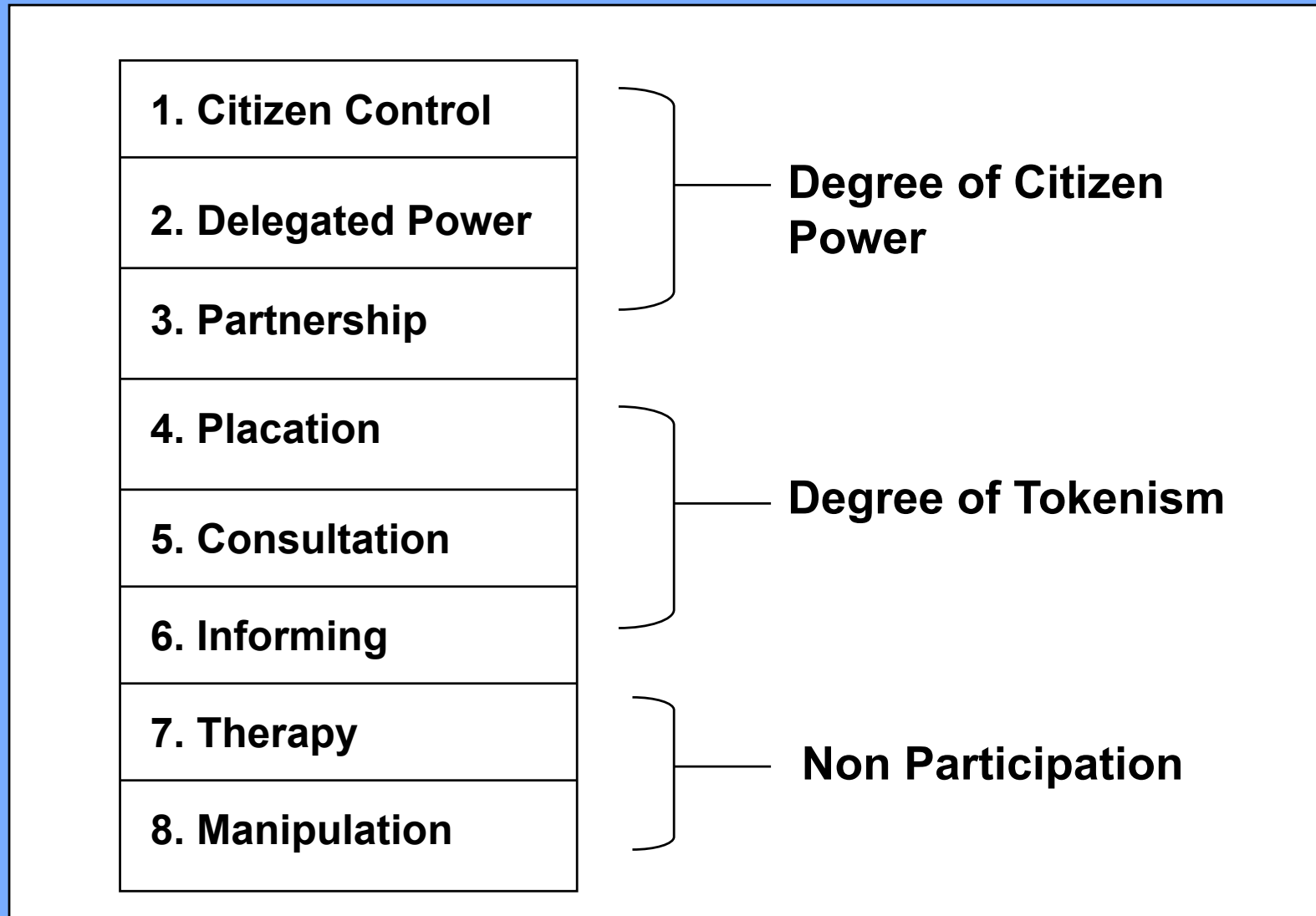
Why Participation?

- Working together allows everyone to achieve more than they could do on their own – ‘**Synergy**’ and ‘**Power To**’ rather than ‘**Power Over**’
- **Concept of *Social Capital and Capacity Building***
- **Striving for a fair, open and collaborative planning system!**

10 Key Ideas (Wilcox 1994)

1. Level of Participation
2. Initiation and Process – participation does not just happen!
3. Control - who is the Initiator?
4. Power and Purpose – information and money
5. Role of Practitioner
6. Stakeholders and Community
7. Partnership – Trust/Commitment
8. Commitment v Apathy
9. Ownership of Ideas – “*We thought of that!*”
10. Confidence and Capacity

Ladder of Participation



(Source: Sherry Arnstein, 1969)

Participation – Skills Required from Communities?

- Leadership
- Mediation
- Teamwork
- Understanding
- ‘Shared’ Vision: 5-10 yrs or longer

(Walzer 1991)



Participation - Core Elements

- **Trust and Understanding**
- **Access and Information**
- **Voice and Values**
- **Negotiation and Mediation**
- **Resources – time and technical**

‘3 Cs’ - Co-operation, Co-ordination & Collaboration

2. Barriers to Participation

| <i>Cultural:</i> | <i>Social:</i> |
|---|------------------------------|
| - Lack of education | - Social segregation |
| - Lack of appropriate skills | - Alienation from government |
| - Lack of confidence | - low social capital |
| - Lack of structural ties with existing organisations | - marginalisation |
| - Lack of interest | - Lack of time and money |
| - Lack of trust | - Lack of access to the web |
| - Lack of experience in negotiating | |

3. Social Structures – Existing and New?

Existing:

- Tidy Towns, LEADER, Irish Rural Link, GAA
- Individual Civic Trusts – e.g. Limerick Civic Trust
- Heritage in Schools Programme
- Irish Planning Institute (IPI)

New?:

- Irish Civic Trust – umbrella group?
- Local Planning Forums and Networks?
- Planning and Design Courses in Schools/Colleges?
- National Planning Aid?

Incentives for Participation?

- Establish '*Networks*', e.g. *IWTN*
- Planning/Design Training
- Contracts – Formal and Informal – '*Project Charters*'
- Trained Intermediaries – *Planning Liaison Officers??*
- Budget for implementation/delivery
- National '*Civic Champions*' Programme
- National Planning Aid???

Summary

- **What is Participation? – Theory & Models**
- **Ladder of Participation – 8 rungs**
- **Core elements – Trust and Understanding**
- **Barriers to Participation - Cultural and Social**
- **Social Structures – Tidy Towns, LEADER, Irish Rural Link, GAA, etc.**
- **Incentives – Networks, Training, etc.**

www.heritagecouncil.ie