

James Paul Lusk
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Paul Lusk writes on politics, housing and community governance.

Until retiring from consultancy work in September 2015, Paul had 38 years' experience of resident involvement. He developed innovative tenant control of housing through co-operatives, tenant management organisations and award winning projects with special needs groups; supported community engagement in large scale regeneration and neighbourhood management; advised scrutiny inquiries; wrote government guidance on resident involvement; and carried out negotiation and conflict resolution. Specific expertise includes preparing constitutions, agreements, policies and business plans, and dealing with incorporation and charitable status.

As a trainer Paul prepared and delivered many courses at the National Communities Resource Centre in governance, financial control, and housing policy matters.

As a volunteer, Paul's experience includes chairing a parish council and a youth charity. He works with international students coming to the UK, especially from China and south east Asia.

Consultancy experience

Paul's consultancy assignments included:

- Developing strategies for neighbourhood management and community involvement
- Writing guidance on tenant empowerment and governance
- Developing housing co-operatives and tenant management organisations including agreements, policies, training and meeting standards for competence
- Managing large scale community involvement in complex regeneration and providing independent advice to residents impacted by regeneration
- Developing business plans for new community facilities in deprived neighbourhoods
- Advising on the merger of councils of voluntary service including developing governance structures and business plans and registering charities
- Mediation between social landlords and tenant groups
- Big Local Rep – supporting residents developing a community-led investment strategy

Training

Training for the National Communities Resource Centre, national and regional federations, councils, housing associations, voluntary committees and resident groups included:

- Governance and committee skills
- Financial control for community groups
- Housing regulation, scrutiny, empowerment policy and standards
- Localism and related legislation
- Anti social behaviour and neighbourhood problem-solving
- Involving residents and neighbourhood profiling
- Equality and fairness

Testimonials

"Paul Lusk quickly built relationships with all the key partners in shaping services and the local community in our neighbourhood. He gave a well rounded assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of our project. He was able to identify a strategy to achieve our objectives and communicate this clearly and successfully"

(Neighbourhood manager)

"His experience, knowledge and understanding of the subject helped us to agree a robust and deliverable plan for the development of effective neighbourhood working across the Borough which achieved widespread support and commitment from our partners"

(Director, Neighbourhood Services)

"The course was interesting and well structured, so I could take in the information easily"

"Relaxed friendly course, Paul knew his stuff"

"Trainer obviously knows his business and came across well informed and presented the course in a way everyone could understand"

"The course was very easy going and the trainer was very good indeed"

(Participants on courses at National Communities Resource Centre)

Personal details

Born: Hitchin, Hertfordshire, UK, 29th October 1947

Nationality: British

Educated:

Dover Grammar School for Boys (1959-1965)

Hertford College, Oxford (1966-1969)

University of Salford: part time research completed 1998, thesis title: Citizenship and Consumption in the development of social rights.

Family: married to Kay, two children born 1987 and 1990.

Qualifications

MA (Oxford) (Philosophy, Politics and Economics; joint winner, Gibbs Prize in Politics, 1968)

M.Phil (Housing)

Level 4 Certificate in Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector

Career history

1966: Community Service Volunteer working with children in Ancoats, Manchester

1969-1971: Administrator with UN Development Programme, Kampala, Uganda

1971-1974: University and College lecturer, Leeds

1975-1977: Darfur and Khartoum, Sudan:

- English Language Teacher and curriculum developer
- English language news agency sub-editor

1977-1988: Co-operative Development Officer, Co-operative Development Services (Liverpool):

- Developing new-build housing co-operatives
- Leading team providing services to tenants in estate action schemes,
- Establishing community economic development agencies
- Leading work on transfer of new town homes
- Member of senior management team

1988-2009: Founder, director and company secretary of Partners in Change (Housing & Community) Ltd, a consultancy providing services for tenant empowerment, neighbourhood management, regeneration and work with children and families

2009-present: Freelance consultant, trainer and writer.

Publications

Paul has produced numerous articles and booklets including for the Guardian, the housing press, Channel 4 TV, Government and political commentaries, mostly on housing, neighbourhood empowerment and participation. Forthcoming work includes:

Beyond Welfare Housing in *Foxes have Holes* (Ekklesia, due March 2016)

The Jesus Candidate: Political Religion in a Secular Age (Ekklesia, due June 2016)