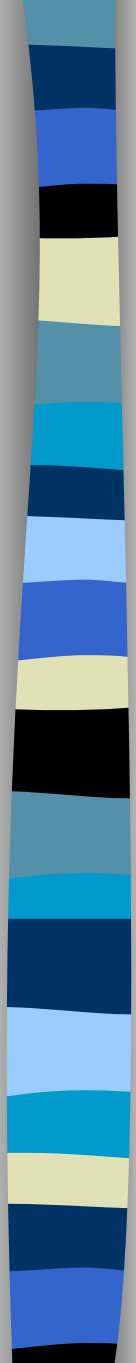


Trinidad and Tobago Supporters Club AGM



Welcome to all delegates



A partial, biased and entirely skewed personal take on things, unconstrained by the shackles of government or confined by a requirement for reliable evidence



It's a communication thing, stupid

- Local government gets in the way of damn fine policy and strategic development
- National government is an irritation in the real business of delivering services to real people



...cont'd

- Local and national government exist to prevent me from doing what I can do best and know more about than them
- National and local government have no idea of the real world and if I keep my head down maybe they'll both go away
- What, more bloody forms?



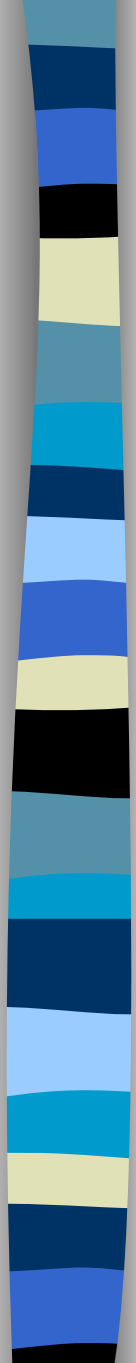
So it's all about the disconnect?

*(apologies to the guy on the train
– actually, that might sound good
as a chapter heading)*



For what we are about to receive...

- Tick one or more box
 - Hugely irritating
 - Completely irrelevant
 - Won't make a bit of difference
 - I'm not bothered, I retire in a couple of years
 - What a wonderful opportunity – can't wait



And so local government is once again pivotal, central, the fulcrum, etc. to the whole shooting match. And it has to face in every direction at the same time and keep everybody happy. And they wonder why I'm prematurely grey.



The process is not...

- Aspirational *rights*
- National *standards* as guidelines of good practice
- Specified local delivery - *entitlements*
- Tricky
- Unknown to any of us
- A burden, operationally



And for the Members?

- Gut-instinct based policy making

- Thank God for Gateshead

- Evidence-based policy making

- An excuse for prevarication?
- Is there a sound evidence base?
- What do we do while we're waiting?



Strategic Networking

- Keep it broad
- Develop what's there – community planning partnership
- Come at it sideways – Creative Borders
- Choose your ambassadors

It's much harder than budgets

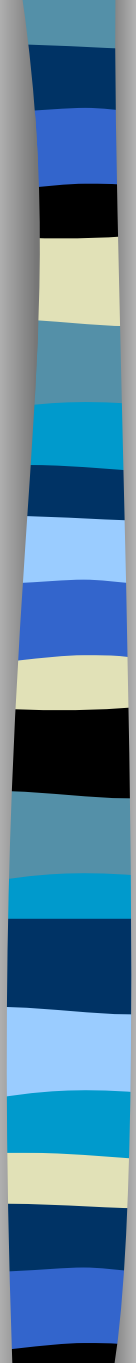


It's about changing working
practice

Staff



Buildings



Policy cannot exist in a vacuum from the reality of everyday service provision, but we might need to change too. Discuss.

■ Buildings

- Who's in love with them – you, your staff, or the Members?

■ Staff

- Smart enough?
- Sweating enough?
- Time to re-build...?



What Guidance is required?

- Practical examples of:
 - Structures that face both ways
 - The areas for engagement
 - How standards and entitlements might look
 - How to develop internally



So, are you...

- Pixar-ed
- Scunnered
- Off to watch the Trinidad & Tobago match

or

- Relishing the opportunity and keen to move forward positively helping shape the agenda locally and nationally