

Knowledge: The Politics of Consultation

We live in a time of big issues, yet public confidence in politicians is at crisis point: ‘The elites know what they want to do to us, so isn’t consultation just a waste of time?’ many residents ask.

This is the view often taken by the public. Consultation is seen by some as a smokescreen, to give the impression of listening whilst decisions are made behind closed doors.

A recent book, *The Politics of Consultation*, looks at these issues, at a time when the profile of public consultation has never been higher and its purpose never more important.

Building on 2009’s *The Art of Consultation*, founders of The Consultation Institute, Rhion Jones and Elizabeth Gammell, examine hundreds of mostly well-meaning attempts to respond to greater demand for public participation in decision-making. They provide a collection of stories that offer insights into the politics of consultation, and a society that is moving towards a more consultative culture.

The text can be bought [here](#), and offers important ideas about the wider political and social context within which contemporary engagement is taking place.

Contents

Foreword

Introduction

Which hat are
you wearing?

Context

Section 1:
The Basics

Section 2.1:
Trust and democracy

Section 2.2:
Trust in the community

Section 2.3:
Trust in the system