

# Some Community Development Definitions

## Empowerment

*"Empowerment is a multi-dimensional social process that helps people gain control over their own lives. It is a process that fosters power (that is the capacity to implement) in people, for use in their own lives, their communities and in their society, by acting on issues that they define as important"*

(Czuba in Better Practice Project Handbook, 2006)

## Community Engagement

*"The process through which communities contribute to particular proposals and policy changes. It involves that active exchange of information and view points between the sponsoring organisations and the community."*

(Planning N.S.W., 2003)

## Community Development

*"The process of developing active and sustainable communities based on social justice and mutual respect. It is about influencing power structures to remove the barriers that prevent people from participating in the issues that affect their lives"*

([www.cdx.or.uk](http://www.cdx.or.uk))

*"The processes, tasks, practices and visions for empowering communities to take collective responsibility for their own development"*

(David Kelly)