

Online participation in Kópavogur

Webinar CZ Good Governance programme

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#### Overview

- Public participation and participatory democracy in Kópavogur
- Pre-Covid online solutions
  - Participatory budgeting program
  - Online gathering of ideas

- Covid Online solutions
  - What is the expected outcome
    - Participation ladder
  - The stakeholder groups
  - Case study
- Next months or years
  - Permanent changes?
  - Adjust each time



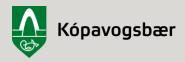
# Public participation and participatory democracy in Kópavogur

- Political goodwill
  - Political interest in involving the public in Kópavogur has been growing for years
- Several methods tried and tested
  - Public meetings in various forms
  - Project related elections



## Public participation and participatory democracy

- In 2019, a full time project manager hired
  - Responsible for public participation and public democracy, in cooperation with other departments
  - Purpose: to increase not just equality, but equity



### **Pre-Covid Online Solutions**

- Participatory budgeting program
- Okkar Kópavogur
  - Public budgeting project
  - 200 m ISK every 2 yrs
  - The public suggests new projects and the prioritization of already planned projects
  - Public election, limited to inhabitants of Kópavogur



## Participatory budgeting program

- Many municipalities in Iceland done a version of the same, i.e. Hverfið mitt in Reykjavík
- In Kópavogur since 2016
- Relatively simple, well known, well regarded
- Eases the way into other online participation?







Kópavogsbær













KOSNING FRAMKVÆMD

Okkar Kópavogur 2017

Hugmyndasöfnun er lokið. Kosningar verða í byrjun árs 2018. Kynntur þér framlagðar hugmyndir frá íbúum.

Q 374 **35** 5 1,906



HÓPAR (5)

FRÉTTAVEITA KORT



Digranes er fjölmennasta hverfi Kópavogs og er það umlukið dölunum tveimur, Kópavogs- og Fossvogsdal. Taktu þátt í að gera hverfið enn betra.

Q 115 ☐ 258 ⊙ 596

Fífuhvammur samanstendur af Linda- og Salahverfi þar sem aðgengi er gott að íþrótta- og útivistarsvæðum. Taktu þátt í að gera hverfið enn betra.

Linda- og Salahverfi

Ω 68 🔲 153 💍 486



Vatnsendi samanstendur af Kórum, Hvörfum og Þingum. Hverfið er í mikilli nálægð við glæsileg útivistarsvæði, Elliðavatn og Heiðmörk. Taktu þátt í að gera hverfið enn betra.

Ω 77 🔲 198 😁 467



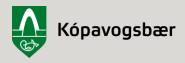
Kársnes er elsta hverfi Kópavogs. Strandlengjan og Borgarholtið eru helstu kennileiti hverfisins. Taktu þátt í að gera hverfið enn betra.

Q 71 □ 230 ♠ 410









## Pre-Covid online solutions – Online gathering of ideas

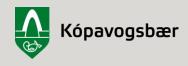
- UN's SDGs implemented in Kópavogur
  - Public asked for ideas



15 LIFA

16 FRIÐUR OG RÉTTLÆTI

6 HREINT VATN OG HREINLÆTISABSTA









INNSKRÁ







#### Heimsmarkmiðin í Kópavogi

Hvað finnst þér? Taktu þátt í að innleiða Heimsmarkmið Sameinuðu þjóðanna (HM) í Kópavogi. Smelltu á HM1-17 og komdu með ábendingar um hvað bærinn á að leggja áherslu á við innleiðingu hvers markmiðs, bæta við markmiði eða sleppa markmiði. Opið frá 06.09. 2019. Sjá: www.kopavogur.is/heimsmarkmidin

Ω 53 🚜 18



**19** 

HÓPAR (18)

**FRÉTTAVEITA** 









## Pre-Covid online solutions – Online gathering of ideas

- Convention on the Rights of the Child implemented in Kópavogur
  - On the way to become a Child Friendly City
  - The public asked for input online







## Pre-Covid online solutions – Online gathering of ideas

- The yearly budget
  - Citizens asked for input
  - Everyone got a personal answer
  - Many of the ideas put into effect





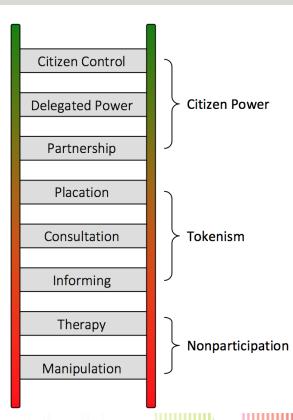
What is the expected outcome?

Participation ladder

This is key before choosing a method

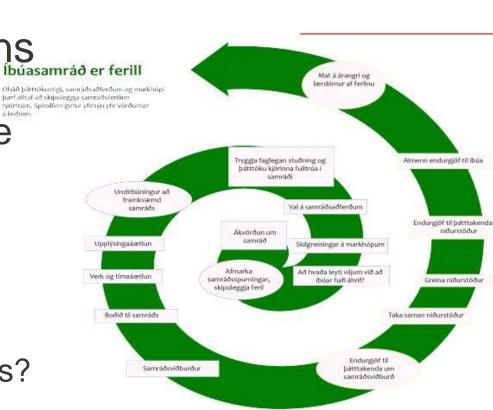
Samtal
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Upplýsingagjöf

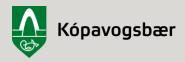
Ákvörðun





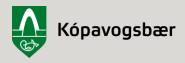
- Importance of doing the groundwork
  - Who are the stakeholders?
  - Who is the intended public?
  - What are their capacities?





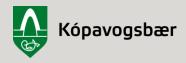
- Case study New downtown in Kópavogur
  - Legally bound introduction
    - Public meetings have to happen
    - Material made available
    - The public can send in comments
    - Are addressed and/or answered





- Case study New downtown in Kópavogur
  - Before, a public meeting
  - Between 17:00 and 18:30
  - Well advertised
  - Material made available online and in print in the City Hall, library etc.





- Case study New downtown in Kópavogur
  - No public meeting possible
  - Online meeting
    - Questions made possible
  - A recording of the meeting means that later viewing is possible
    - Has proved very popular
  - The time to hand in comments extended greatly







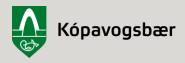
- Case study New downtown in Kópavogur
  - Special attention given to the elderly people
    - A senior citizen apartment building in the area
    - Many are house-bound
    - No access to computers, printers etc.





- Case study New downtown in Kópavogur
  - Solutions
    - Booklet printed and handed out
    - Personal phone calls offered
    - Meeting can be viewed at any time
    - Extra material offered
      - Hand delivered to their mailbox





- Case study New downtown in Kópavogur
  - Still in the lowest rungs of the participation ladders
    - Lots of extra consultation has occurred before, i.e. smaller meetings with inhabitants etc.
  - Availability and information access greatly improved
  - Meets with approval from the public





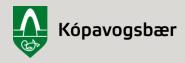
## Next months or years

- Each time, we look to what the intention is with the public participation
- Then, we look at the stakeholder groups and their capabilities
  - Is online possible? Is online preferable?
- Then, develop appropriate methods



#### Next months

- Methods continue to evolve
  - Positive for those who are interested in online solutions to public participatory democracy
- Both us and the public getting more creative
  - Breakout rooms allow for discussions



## Next months or years

- Democracy can never appease all and neither is it meant to
  - "Democratic elections! It's all about these rude people, my neighbours, who participated in these democratic elections!"
    - A citizen in Kópavogur who has never participated in Okkar Kópavogur, though he knows the project well





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