

9½ rules for (re)development

A (re)development project can be exciting and release substantial new value for your parish, your mission and your local community. It can also be a frustrating and stressful experience, but with careful thinking, engagement, planning and a high degree of creativity, you and the project team can save a lot of energy, time and money!

We have worked with a number of (re) development projects. As they have emerged and developed, we have learnt a number of lessons. These are some of the main issues you will need to consider in planning your project:

deliver your mission objectives. Are there any other more creative/better/cheaper ways to achieve the same objectives?

2. Really explore all of the options - including the ones that you have never even heard/thought of. Take some risks with your project and, in the process of developing and designing it, be prepared to change it - and please use it to *get noticed!*

3. Look for creative ways of getting practical and creative input at all stages from a range of existing/new local allies such as the local university architecture department, art and/or business school, further education [design, arts and construction], food growing, arts and environmental groups, etc.

4. Engage as many *new* people as possible and make this the priority at the beginning and throughout your project. Once you have your basic story straight involve the key stakeholders and seek out *new* stakeholders/allies that will add real value to your/their project and mission.

1. Be clear with yourself, colleagues and stakeholders why this is the best use of resources, time and effort in order to



5. Have a clear risk and communications strategy to identify and manage your risks. Communicate/ share regularly your successes and excite your allies, key stakeholders and the wider world about your emerging new offer.

6. When looking for financial resources look to yourselves first, new allies and commercial opportunities second, then finance, before putting all of your energies into grant funding (bring something to the party!).

8. Make a plan about what you and your team will have to do, and allocate some time and resources to the key tasks. Then, at least triple the amount of time that you have allocated to them as external events and the requirements of other organisations will add complexity!

9. Be clear about why your project will work, given where/how it is being planned. Will it be viable and operate profitably? Can you do a 1 minute pitch based on this?

9½. If it doesn't make you smile it won't make anyone else smile – so don't do it. Have some fun!



7. Is your project as green as it could be? Are you missing opportunities to meet your obligations, reduce your running costs, make an income, improve your image and access some key funding? If it is not fully green *think again* – the planet (creation) has enough problems!

We are happy to talk to you about your ideas and the work we are doing. Our rapid development programme (**rdp**) covers many of these issues in more detail and includes a range of in-depth buildings resources that are made available free of charge to participants. For more detail about **rdp** please visit our website or contact us.

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