

made that have implications for monitoring social and economic impacts:

1. A regular basis for funding is essential. The shaky fund basis of the Center made it difficult to establish longer term projects beyond regular agreed communications from agencies providing data.
2. A full-time Director with professional qualifications is necessary. Much depends on the individual personality of the Director and each Director has brought different perspectives and emphases to the task.
3. The role of the Advisory Committee can be an important one as a sounding board. Comments on meetings of the Impact Advisory Board ranged from "dull" and "a waste of time" to "emotional" and "too much time placating irate natives" to "intelligent and thought-provoking discussion". Members were all unpaid and usually deeply involved in community affairs anyway and felt unable at times to give as much as they might wish. The feeling was also expressed that economic interests tended to dominate and it was difficult to keep social concerns to the forefront. The monthly meetings were public and public attendance varied from about 5 to 20. However, proceedings were well reported in the local news media.
4. The impartiality of such an information centre or monitoring project must be preserved. In the supercharged atmosphere of an impact situation there are considerable political pressures. There was a paradox in weighing up the advantages of giving the Impact Information Center "official" status in the Borough administration and the potential disadvantages of accusations of political interference because it was funded through the Borough. The question of impartiality is particularly important where community trust and involvement is to be encouraged.
5. The whole question of community participation is an important one in a monitoring exercise. While public participation in the Impact Advisory Committee meetings was small, many individuals did visit the Impact Information Center and made use of information provided. Many also brought in comments and queries that