



# Consultations, Petitions, Referendums

*New Opportunities for Influencing Legislation*

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1. Consultations
2. Petitions
3. Referendums

# Consultations

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# Consultations

- Been around since 1960s
- Bad reputation
- Trends:
  1. Online
  2. Outsourced
  3. Crowd sourcing

# Consultations -Actions

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# Consultations -Actions

They need you more than ever...

1. Your network is valuable
2. You can host events
3. Be prepared for online consultation

# Petitions

*[Faint, handwritten text in a historical script, likely Latin or Italian, covering the page. The text is mostly illegible due to fading and bleed-through.]*

# Petitions

- At least 700 years old
- Duty to Respond to Petitions repealed (?)
- Nr 10 ePetitions Closing/Moving
- Promises:
  - Petitions with 100,000 signatures eligible for formal debate in Parliament
  - Petition with the most signatures may be tabled as a Bill

# Petitions -Actions



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# Petitions -Actions

Good mobilisation tool

1. Make it clear
2. Go viral
3. Always have next step/stay in touch

# Referendums



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# Referendums

- Nine Referendums since 1972
- 2011 first UK referendum since -75
- Advisory role only
- Likely to see more referendums in the future.

# Local Referendums

## Little-used Provision in Local Government Act 1972

- Non-binding local referendums
- Parish councils

## Example

- September 2007
- East Stoke, Dorset
- Referendum on the EU Constitutional Treaty

# The Future is Local

TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL



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# The Future is Local

## Localism Bill Opportunities:

1. Community Right to Buy
2. Community Right to Challenge
3. Neighbourhood Planning
4. Right to instigate local referendums
  - 5% of population sign petition
  - Written request from elected member of authority

# Referendum Exceptions

Not allowed when:

1. In contravention of law
2. Not an issue that authority or its partner authorities has an influence
3. If it is an issue that Secretary of State has vetoed
4. If 'vexatious or abusive'

# Summary

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# Summary

1. Consultation
  2. Petitions
  3. Referendums
- Likely to see more of all three
  - Both local and national
  - Networking will be key

# involve

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