



COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

“The 2010 Legacy: Exploring the Myths and Realities of the FIFA World Cup”

Tuesday 27th July 2010

Square Hill Civic Centre

Speakers:

Dr. Dale McKinley & Mr. Vernon Seymour

The DDP Community Dialogue series

Opening up new spaces for dialogue and conversation within communities is one of the focal areas of the DDP and talks directly to the theme of active citizenship. The process implies recognition that communities can claim back the right to be heard and the right to be a part of their own developmental processes.

The last dialogue, following on the heels of the FIFA World Cup, allowed people to look more critically at the aftermath of the event and whether or not it has made as significant an impact on the country as we have been told. More importantly it offered the community the space to connect to each other as a community.

Two speakers, **Dr Dale McKinley**, activist, independent researcher and writer and **Mr. Vernon Seymour**, deputy venue manager at Greenpoint Stadium gave a brief input to the group. Representing opposing views the speakers gave the group the opportunity to engage with the views represented in a more critical and balanced way.

Whilst Vernon spoke of the many benefits the World Cup brought to this country, listing job creation, international exposure and a deep sense of national pride among them, Dale spoke about the stark realities of the of the actual as opposed to the projected cost of the event. In addition a key issue that emerged was the extent to which the event had benefitted the poor and marginalized communities of South Africa.

During the general discussion many participants voiced their frustrations and saw the World Cup as a missed opportunity to truly integrate all South Africans. Other individuals were concerned with the fate of the newly built stadia as well as the future of the country's transport and security services. In addition, there seemed to be a



shared desire among the participants to do something about their frustrations, and many wanted to know how they could “claim their power.”

It was interesting to see people stand up to be acknowledged and then being given the space to be heard by other members of the community. The questions raised also stirred emotions about their present living conditions and what they could do about it. We believe that the community dialogue series could well be an entry point to have deeper conversations within these communities about local governance and other issues that impact on their lives.