



Version 1.0, Feb 2008

Developing a Local Project

Introduction

Local community groups, either working alone, or in "partnership" with public bodies, NGOs, or other community organisations can have a key role to play in helping to care for, protect and manage their area. Many groups are formed around or centred on a specific project.

Identifying a project

The aims of such a project may be to:

- secure the continued long-term use sites as important local open spaces;
- rescue sites from neglect and decay;
- protect, manage and, where appropriate, enhance sites for wildlife;
- encourage appropriate public amenity uses;
- introduce tree planting schemes;
- deal with a rubbish dumping or fly-tipping problem;
- improve and meet the need for facilities in the area e.g. a new play space or to;
- Develop a management plan for a particular site to set the direction and provide the basis for a balanced, co-ordinated, integrated approach to the long-term management of the site.

In some cases, individual projects may provide a catalyst for the wider regeneration of the local area.

Developing a project

The form and content of a project needs to be determined locally and must be based on, result from and reflect local circumstances, conditions, priorities and needs. However, it is possible to identify a number of points / stages that should be considered in developing a project.

- Identify the "problem"

Where are we now; a description and appraisal of the existing situation – what is wrong and what needs to be done.

- The vision

Where are we going - where do we want to go / what do we want to do? – the broad purpose of project

- Aims and objectives

What do we want to change and achieve?

- The way forward

How are we going to get there; how the group intends to meet the objectives

- Implementation

The mechanisms that will be used to deliver the project; what needs to be done, by who and when, and who's going to do what

The key aims behind any project are likely to be about making the most of opportunities that it might provide to:

- promote the increased appreciation, use and enjoyment of the area by local residents;
- encourage the local community to get involved in the management and care of the area;
- encourage a strong sense of community "ownership" of and responsibility for the area;
- help to provide a strong focus for community development, cohesion and activity and;
- Foster a sense of place and community identity, spirit, well-being and pride.