

# **Making a Difference in Penrith!**

## **Ideas to help you improve your area**

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**This Community Resource Kit can be downloaded or copied for use by Penrith Residents and Groups**

**Positive changes will build on the good things already happening on your street.**

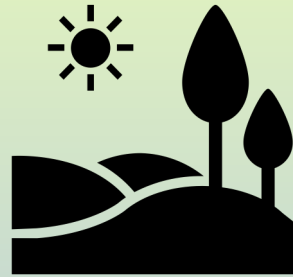


**Penrith Town Council**

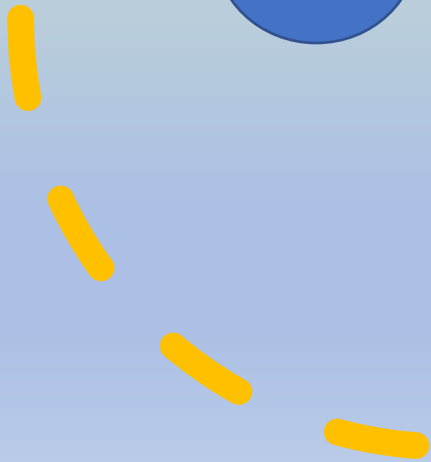


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# 'Making a Difference' Leading Change in your Area





- Find people on your street who feel like you and want to make a difference to where you live
- Form an action group and think about how you can work together to make things better
- Discover strengths and skills in the group
- Create a vision of what you'd like to see happen or what you would like to change – look at 'what might be' to determine 'what should be' and create 'what will be'
- Look at your vision of future success and work back to create first steps





B

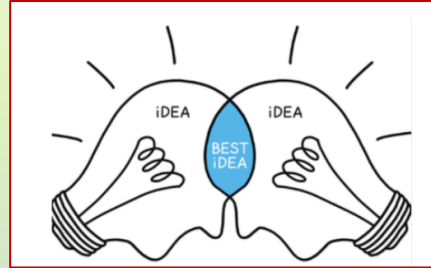
IDEAS - What you and your neighbours can do to make your street and surrounding area better?



## B

- Take photos of the street you live on e.g. the things/spaces around it, including among other things: green spaces, safe meeting places, churches; sports fields, bus stops, bridges, walkways or a cycle path
- Make lists of the things you like, things you think could be better used and/or better looked after
- With your eye on any down at heel or grot spots, think about what you could do to improve them
- Set up a Social Media page (if possible) to share information about what you want to do, or meet when you can and have a chat.
- Take photos of your group and with appropriate permission post on your social media site along with any images related to what you want to do.
- Share information with the Town Council who can help promote what you're doing on social media.

B



Contact Penrith Town Council and ask for information about 'Dialogue,' an online conversation system. It could help you gather ideas and decide on next steps.

For information contact the Town Council's Community Engagement Officer, Anna Malina.

email: [ceofficer@penrithtowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:ceofficer@penrithtowncouncil.co.uk)



## B

- Ask people you know in your immediate vicinity what activities there are for children/young people/older people and, if you think they could be better, collect ideas.
- Offer support to people on your street who may need a little support, including new neighbours, people from different ethnic backgrounds, people with health issues, older people
- Make neighbours you don't know well welcome e.g. organise a meet-up and invite new people
- Share resources e.g. gazebo, portable BBQ, games for kids, outdoor tables and seats
- Encourage children to walk more and keep healthy, e.g. walk children to school safely
- Use green areas in town – organise a walking group, pram walks, cycling group





Planning, Communicating and  
staying Realistic!





- Think about the actions the group need to take
- Write a simple plan. This is essentially your road-map.
- Keep things specific, simple, relevant, realistic, and attainable.
- Establish who will be doing what
- Decide what resources are needed
- Make sure everyone is clear about their role and what they are responsible for
- Note how long specific actions will be needed. Make sure everyone is aware of the timescales
- Record progress made on each action



- Find time to chat and keep relationships going
- Try to manage expectations
- Think about the time needed for whatever project you're taking on. Check how much time everyone involved can spare
- Check whether others in Penrith are dealing with the same issues you are and collaborate/share ideas if possible
- Talk to your Ward Councillor as well as people from community organisations in Penrith. They may be able to offer advice or help with support
- Be flexible, build on small successes, learn from mistakes and welcome change to thinking
- Lay aside the things you feel can't be dealt with right now, You can always go back to them when the time is right.



## Avoiding Problems & Pitfalls





- If you have ideas, share them and ask everyone to consider them, but don't take offence if people disagree with you
- Aim for collaboration. Try to understand what other people feel and what they want. It's very easy for us to assume other people think the same way we do
- Don't fall into the trap of blaming others if things don't work out.
- While problems can be hard to deal with it's beneficial to deal with them amicably. Leaving things to fester will only make the problems worse.
- Encourage self-respect and make sure everyone has a job to do.
- Aim to develop good relationships built on open-ness and trust
- Know that everyone is different and everyone has the ability to develop and change



# Running an Event





- Agree on an event you can hold on your street
  - Could be a fun event for families and children, an arts event or related to the heritage of Penrith or the street you live on
  
- Form a working group to organise the event
  - Set a budget and plan fund-raising
  - Find sponsors to for support the event or donate prizes
  - Plan activities, entertainment, equipment needed.
  - Produce a programme
  - Create a flyer or other promotional material
  - Develop a Health and Safety Plan (Template available)
  - Organise traffic management if needed.



Finally







- Find ways to evaluate the event or the actions you've taken
- Lessons learned will help with organisation of future action/events
- Share your lessons with other groups striving to make a difference in Penrith and ask them to reciprocate
- Celebrate what everyone has achieved working together
- Write a story about what you've done for your Facebook Page, write an article for the local paper or contact local radio and tv stations to promote what you're doing to make a difference in your area



Printable templates are available from the Community Resource Section of the Town Council Website to support you in what you're doing.

<https://www.penrithtowncouncil.co.uk/local-interaction/community-resource-kit-make-a-difference-to-the-place-you-live/>

