



COMMUNITIES: Community Spaces

What is a community?

Every one of us is part of a number of different communities, such as our families, school, work place or religious group. You might belong to a community interest group (e.g. dance group or football club), or an online community (e.g. a social networking site). Your 'community' may also involve where and how you live:

- Many people live together as a 'nuclear family' – father, mother and dependent children, or as an 'extended family' with grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.
- Some people live alone, whilst others live in a communal space and may share a kitchen, bathroom or living area.
- Some people own their own home or are buying it with a mortgage. Others are renting a house, flat or room, and some live in a home paid for by the local council.
- There are a multitude of types of groups, but all these groups can and do live and mix together in a local area or 'community'.

Community spaces and places

People need public spaces to meet and mix with others from their communities. These spaces are important in giving groups a sense of 'togetherness'.

Parks and other open spaces

A community's green spaces (e.g. parks, public gardens, village greens, woodlands) are important in making the community a good place to live in and providing a place for residents to exercise and enjoy nature.

Libraries

Libraries offer a range of different services to the public. Aside from books, music and DVDs, they can also provide reading groups, book reviews; Internet access; and often an online catalogue to browse library contents.

Town halls and community centres

Most areas where people live have a public building, which is used by different members of the community. Sometimes this is an historic building and may be used for rehearsals, performances, community gatherings (e.g. festivals, public meetings); or for private functions.

Religious buildings

Religious buildings, such as temples, churches, synagogues and mosques provide a place for religious communities to gather together and worship.

School halls

School halls and classrooms within a school premise, can be used by members of the school (e.g. for after-school clubs) or hired by the general public (e.g. for concerts or meetings).

Museums

Communities often have museums containing artefacts, photographs and documents with historical significance to the local area.

Shops, businesses

Although many people work out of the area in which they live, their home community will be interspersed with a range of small, medium and large businesses from shops, restaurants, offices, etc. all contributing to a local community.