



COMMUNITIES: Neighbourliness

A sustainable community is an eco-friendly place where people want to live and work that meet all the needs of residents, now and in the future. This largely depends on the people who live there and how 'neighbourly' they are. This includes being friendly, helpful and cooperative, and showing respect for other people, their beliefs, their space and their property.

Anti-social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour has a negative effect on people's lives and their community. Most communities work hard to cut anti-social behaviour down to a minimum.

Crime is an obvious example; this ranges from graffiti and vandalism to burglary and drink-driving to extreme crimes like assault and murder. Whatever the level of crime, it affects the quality of life in the community.

Being a good neighbour

Respecting diversity and equality

'Diversity' refers to the differences between people and groups, which should be respected and celebrated. 'Equality' is about fairness, making sure that everyone feels included and can participate in the community. Most schools, work places and organisations have a policy of 'equal opportunities', which means that people can't be discriminated against.

Protecting your neighbours

There are a number of 'Watch' schemes, such as 'Neighbourhood Watch' and 'Home Watch'. These are where local residents actually 'watch out' or look out for their own and their immediate neighbours houses and well being. They help reduce and prevent crime, and keep people, animals and property safe and secure.

Boosting community spirit

It's important that a community has a sense of identity and belonging, so that its members are able to develop a sense of pride about where they live. Many organisations help to build community spirit and encourage people to help others, such as Lions Clubs (who work together on different types of community projects), the Women's Institute (skill building and educational opportunities for women) and Girl Guides and Scouts (leadership and life skills for young people). A residents' association acts as a community 'voice' and works to sort out problems within the community.

Neighbourliness in schools

Schools are miniature communities involving lots of different people. Just as you can have your say in your larger community, you can do so in your school (e.g. with a student council). You can also get involved in sports and other activity clubs where you can do things together with your school community. Most schools celebrate diversity, and have policies to ensure that all staff and pupils are treated fairly and equally, and may include things such as an anti-bullying policy. This is to ensure the school is a place where students want to learn and teachers want to work, similar to a sustainable community.