

## Toolkit Guide Three:

# The community profile questions

This community profile may have been carried out during a community planning activity such as a parish plan or market town healthcheck. Find out whether this information has been gathered recently, before you start. You may identify other questions that are particular to your community and not covered in this Guide. Please feel free to add any other facts which you feel are relevant.

Putting together a community profile need not take lots of time and effort, it should be based on information that is readily known or available. Your starting point is providing a picture of your community as it is now. Imagine describing your community to someone who knows nothing about your special place. The profile can be done for one or many reasons:

- A basis for policy making
- To stimulate action
- To inform and understand
- A tool for fundraising

### **What do you need to find out?**

A full profile will cover the following areas (with sample questions)

Consider whether the answer is a Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, Threat or just a Fact, and put the letter at the end of the box. Strengths and weaknesses normally relate to the 'now' and opportunities and threats relate to the 'future'.

This information will be useful for the profile analysis in Step Three.

Question	Response	SWOTF
<b>Brief summary of the history and description of the area</b>		
Is your community a village, town or city		
What is the geographic setting of your community. Is it rural/urban or a combination		
Is your community growing or declining in size		
How would you describe the character of your community		
Are there any special features to your community		
<b>Population</b>		
What is the total population of your community		
What is the gender breakdown of the population		
What is the age of the population		
What is the state of the health of the population		
What proportion of the population has a disability		
What proportion of the population is working		
What is the ethnic breakdown of the community		
Are there changes taking place to effect the size or makeup of the population		

<b>National and local government services</b>		
<p>What national services are provided in the community or where is the nearest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police Station</li> <li>• Fire Station</li> <li>• Citizens Advice centre</li> <li>• Post office</li> <li>• District Council office</li> </ul>		
<p>What health facilities are available in your community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doctor</li> <li>• Nurse</li> <li>• Dentist</li> <li>• Hospital</li> </ul>		
<p>Do any of the above facilities provide other community services</p>		
<b>Education</b>		
<p>Where are the schools, colleges and other education institutions</p>		
<p>What provision is there for adult learning</p>		
<p>What is the provision for childcare, pre-school learning and after school learning/ where does this provision take place/is it adequate for the purpose</p>		
<p>Is there a school travel plan being compiled or in place</p>		
<p>Is there a library and what is the opening times/access/facilities</p>		
<p>What other organisations provide community based learning/what is the learning and/who do they provide for</p>		

Is there a community education notice board/how do you access it		
When the above schools/colleges or other education institutions are not in session, are they used for any other community activity		
Is there a tourist information service in the community. When is it available		
<b>Work and economy</b>		
What is the main locality of work in the community		
Who are the major employers		
Do most people work outside of the community		
What is the level of unemployment		
Is the community economy vibrant and thriving or are shops closing		
Is there out of town shopping or are there plans to develop one		
Do you have banks, building societies, automatic cash dispensers		
Are there shops, pubs, clubs or other social facilities available at peak times		
Do you have a local market day. Does it attract people from outside the locality		

<b>Transport</b>		
What is the level of public transport, are the destinations/ timetables useful and realistic, what is the cost, are there concessions		
Do the public transport services serve all parts of the community		
Is there community transport available; e.g. Dial-a-ride, mini bus, etc Is it available for all age groups		
Is there sufficient car parking available, is it affordable		
Where are the nearest train/coach stations? Are there transport links to these stations		
Do you have a designated cycle path. Is it promoted and used by local people		
<b>Leisure</b>		
Do you have a local recreation centre, is it well used. Is it affordable		
What other leisure facilities exist. Are they well used. Are they affordable		
How else do people spend their leisure time		
Is there a directory of all the clubs/recreational societies in the community.		
Where do the clubs/societies etc hold their meetings and activities		
Are there social facilities devoted to one age/sex/racial group; e.g. elderly, young, singles		

<b>Religion</b>		
Where are the churches and other places of religious worship and activity		
How involved are the members of these churches etc involved in community life		
Do the clergy get asked to act as representatives on community bodies for their church community		
To what extent do these religious centres act as cultural centres		
Do you know what diocese your community comes under/do you know how to contact your diocese with regards to community development		
Is there a church council which meets to consider church related and community issues. Does this have a link to other community related activity		
Does the local church(s) have a community development plan/liason officer		

## Crime and Nuisance

What is the level of crime/nuisance in the community as a whole

Are there specific areas where crime/nuisance is located. If so, what is the demographic make up of the area

What is the police / council / community doing to tackle crime and nuisance

Does your community have surveillance equipment

Are the police represented on community bodies

Do neighbourhood watch schemes operate in your community

