



# MAKE YOUR COMMUNITY FITTER FOR WALKING

**LIVING STREETS  
STREET REVIEW  
GUIDANCE**



# ABOUT LIVING STREETS

We are Living Streets, the UK charity for everyday walking.

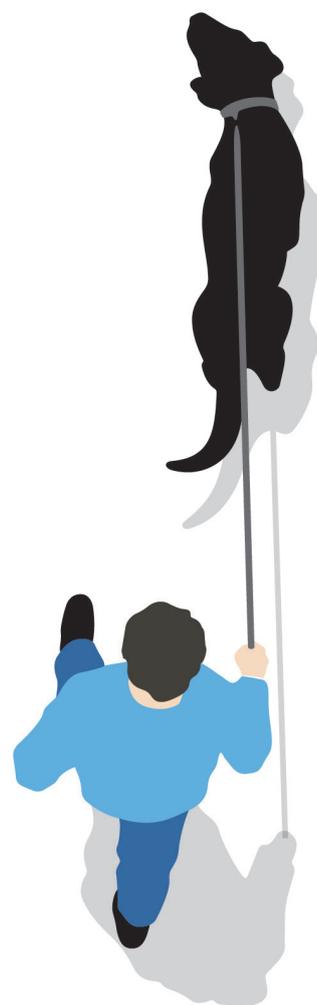
We want to create a walking nation where people of all generations walk and enjoy the benefits this simple act brings.

**FOR OVER 85 YEARS WE HAVE BEEN A BEACON FOR WALKING, WITH OUR EARLY CAMPAIGNS RESULTING IN THE INTRODUCTION OF SPEED LIMITS AND THE FIRST ZEBRA CROSSINGS.**

Join us in helping make your streets fit for walking by planning a street review. A street review evaluates the walking quality of your local streets and helps build a case for improvements.

The review process focuses on how to make streets better for you to walk on everyday - be it for commute, exercise or leisure. Your perspective provides recommendations to local authorities to deliver better and more ambitious schemes which are supportive of community needs.

The focus of your review will evaluate the local places where people walk, be it the high street, local school, residential area or recreational space. It can focus on how all these places are linked up for ease and accessibility. You can review streets in town centres or small villages and wherever there is a space where you want to get more people walking.



## WHY CONDUCT A STREET REVIEW?

You might want to run a review in your area if:

- It's difficult to get about
  - Streets feel dominated by traffic or parking
- Spaces feel uncared for or unsafe
- You are concerned about the impact of a new development
- It feels like authorities are not listening to the issues that you are raising.

## WHO CAN PLAN A STREET REVIEW?

Anyone can plan a street review.

Living Streets can assist you or a group in preparing for a review. We can provide further support in delivering a more comprehensive audit at a small fee to cover our expenses.

## GUIDELINES

Here are some guidelines to help you deliver your assessment. Remember, the review is only part of the process – it is how you use it to get people to take notice that is also crucial to creating change.



## Prepare your audit

- 500 metres is an ideal area for your review. The review will include walking around the area and assessing what you see and how the space is used. It's best to choose a route which links up important destinations: shops, houses, a school or a park.



## Risk assess your route

When walking always make use of the zebra crossings and remember to find a suitable place to stop and chat, away from traffic or other distractions. Take note where the closest facilities are and check weather forecasts to prepare for the conditions as you may need to reschedule.

- Invite a range of people to join the review, this will help give broad results reflecting multiple points of view. Inviting people with physical or mental health disabilities will ensure your review is inclusive and fully representative. Invite councillors and officers (transport, cleansing, maintenance, regeneration, police, public health officer etc.) along so they can see for themselves.
- You may have to run the review at varying times - day, evening or weekend - to ensure a range of individuals can attend but also to assess the street at different times.
- We provide review worksheets. Feel free to use these to make notes.



## Conduct your review

We have developed a checklist of eight categories for you to discuss as you walk the route. It is not a tick-box exercise, but when assessing each category consider what's there, why it's there, and record any issues. Ask yourself if it could be causing problems for others (e.g. parents with prams, those with restricted mobility). Think about how you might be encouraged to walk more if changes were made.

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|----------|--|--|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Footway surfaces and obstructions</b> | Take a look at the quality and mix of materials; footway condition; positioning, alignment and condition of street furniture; temporary obstructions including cars, advertising boards and road works.      |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Facilities and signage</b>            | Consider benches, bins, lighting, trees, and signage.  |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Maintenance and enforcement</b>       | Discuss any issues around litter; cleanliness; repair; flyposting and graffiti; parking enforcement.   |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Personal security</b>                 | Assess lighting levels, sightlines, natural surveillance, and anti-social behaviour.   |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Crossing points and desire lines</b>  | Identify both formal and informal crossing points; and any desire lines (i.e. a path individuals might take informally rather than using a pavement or set route).   |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Road layout and space allocation</b>  | Think about the share of space allocated to different users (cars, people, cyclists etc.) and the relationship of different elements of the street to each other.  |
| <b>7</b> | <b>Aesthetics</b>                        | Consider any aspects of the environment that add a positive aesthetic element - buildings, public art, green space, noise or smell. Focus on traffic speed and volume, air pollution, noise and road safety. |
| <b>8</b> | <b>Traffic</b>                           | Focus on traffic speed and volume, air pollution, noise and road safety.   |

## REMEMBER

- Write notes from the walk with another attendee so you capture all the discussions. Include a map of the route you took and ideally your key recommendations. Everyone's opinion is valid so include positive points and any adjustments that people think are needed to encourage more people to walk in this area.
- Look for things you like in your street as well as any changes that are necessary.
- Come up with solutions to issues raised.
- Think about the wider community and impacts rather than small details.
- Imagery is key; take photos on your walk to support the review's findings.
- Debrief with your group to discuss the outcomes and priorities.
- Specify who walked and reviewed the area. Create and share your findings in a report with local authorities, councillors and partners.



## WHEN WRITING YOUR REPORT, REMEMBER:

- Organise your points in a logical order – either by priority or by issue. Indicate your findings and recommendations.
- Be balanced in your suggestions, thinking about individuals and what really will improve walking in the area. Staying calm is key as every issue can be resolved with time and patience.
- Include both short term and long term aspirational ideas.
- Provide positive points and constructive comments that will motivate people to improve the area for walking. Positivity is key.
- Photos will illustrate your point and use of captions to provide context.
- Be direct – if you encounter an issue multiple times explain once and mention the instances.
- Include a map of the route you walked and a list of who was invited and who walked with you.

Helpful hint: start your report with – “Our local campaign supports the aims of Living Streets, the UK charity for everyday walking. Living Streets want to create a walking nation where people of all generations enjoy the benefits that this simple act brings, on streets fit for walking.’



Present your findings publicly and build momentum for your campaign. Set up your own meeting or ask for a half hour slot at a local forum to demonstrate your results from the review.

- Invite a broad range of councillors and officers to your meeting (transport, regeneration, town centre managers, public health, etc.), as well as traders, police, local schools and churches.
- Build support in advance by speaking to partners and making yourself aware of relevant policies and initiatives, as well as issues that may prove controversial.
- You are an advocate for Living Streets, creating a better environment with the aim to encourage people to walk more. With issues such as parking it helps to develop a range of points to reflect on when discussing with partners
- Visuals will help convey your message, prioritize a few key points and print a hand-out to demonstrate your ideas or opinion.–Commit to a constructive action and you will develop momentum. Examples include clean up days in your community, petitions or even the development of a campaign.

## GATHERING MOMENTUM FROM YOUR REVIEW



**WALK**

**WITH**

**LIVING**

**STREETS**

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