



LOCAL GROUPS

LIVING STREETS WHO ARE WE



WE ARE LIVING STREETS, THE UK CHARITY FOR EVERYDAY WALKING.

We have long been a beacon for walking with a heritage stretching back to 1929. We are a campaigning charity governed by our volunteer trustees, with a network of members, local groups and supporters. Through our projects we are making a direct impact, encouraging thousands more to walk their everyday journeys.



OUR VISION, MISSION AND VALUES



VISION:

A nation where walking is the natural choice for local, everyday journeys.

MISSION:

To achieve a better walking environment and inspire people to walk more.

VALUES:



EXCELLENT

We are knowledgeable, evidence-based and totally focused on our mission.



INSPIRING

We will lead the charge for walking, building momentum with every step.



POSITIVE

Our attitude is confident, enthusiastic, 'can-do'.



COLLABORATIVE

We work with others towards common goals, because we can do more together.





HOW WE WORK WITH THE COMMUNITY

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Building a Community for Change

We're working to develop an approach to community engagement through our Local Groups which is:

- **Sustainable:** We know people may need support to lead a Local Group and we are working to offer the resource to make this possible
- **Equitable:** It is important that we build relationships in an honest and transparent way which is sensitive to the needs of those around us
- **Diverse:** Our Affinity Groups provide a space for people to come together around shared identities and needs





WHY WE LEAD WALKS

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Our led walks are the ideal path to explore your neighbourhood in new and inspiring ways. You could be missing out on fascinating historical architecture or secret havens of natural beauty right on your doorstep!

Our volunteer Walk Leaders are local people trained to deliver interesting walks enjoying routes with plenty of opportunities to stop and admire all the sights and sounds of the local area.

THREE REASONS TO WALK



PHYSICAL HEALTH

Keeping active is important for everyone, at every age. It's good for our hearts, lungs, muscles and bones. It helps us keep a healthy weight, and reduces the risk of a wide range of long term health conditions.

MENTAL HEALTH

It's good for our mental health and wellbeing. It reduces stress, improves self-confidence, and reduces the risk of problems like depression and even Alzheimer's and dementia.

SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

Talking and walking go together. People who walk in groups often make new friends and enjoy improved social contact. Studies show people who live in areas with higher walking levels have more local friends and contacts.



WHAT WE WANT TO CHANGE

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WE WANT A NATION WHERE WALKING IS THE NATURAL CHOICE FOR LOCAL, EVERYDAY JOURNEYS.



SPACE - A network of walking routes in every town and city, creating safe and attractive places for people of all ages and abilities

SAFETY - The Highway Code revised to improve safety for people walking and cycling

SPEED - A default speed limit of 20mph for most roads in built-up areas

PRIORITY - Pavement parking prohibited across the UK

HEALTH - At least 55% of primary school aged children walking to school

COMMUNITY FOR CHANGE - A thriving network of Living Streets local groups.



HOW WE FIND OUT WHAT PEOPLE NEED

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Listening to and Learning from our Communities



- We know that it is only by taking time to listen and connect with different voices that we will learn what communities need
- Our affinity group network provide different perspectives on how we can make space for new voices in our work
- By developing tools for engagement, such as creative walking, we can support Local Groups to lead more walks
- We take the time to interview our members to build up case studies for our work and to develop new resources
- We let our groups lead the conversation and have an open-door policy





HOW WE CONNECT WITH
DECISION MAKERS

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We directly use our experience from working with communities to advise, engage and influence decision-makers. This helps us make recommendations, advance change and create better places for walking and wheeling for everyone.



- We undertake research in the form of; insight gathering, literature reviews and policy development. Often, a lot of this information will come directly from communities, drawing on the real-life experiences of volunteers.
- We develop and publish reports such as 'The Pedestrian Pound' and 'Is Walking the Miracle Cure?', to convey the value and importance of walking in society.
- We submit responses to consultations across the UK to advocate for walking and provide relevant information so that governments and parliaments can make informed decisions.
- We meet with MPs, MSPs, MSs, mayors and councillors to discuss and promote relevant issues affecting pedestrians, such as the increasing the number of 20mph zones and banning pavement parking.
- We work collaboratively with other organisations to advance the argument for better walking infrastructure and ensure the voices of pedestrians are heard across the sector.



HOW WE ARE SUPPORTED IN OUR WORK

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Working Equitably in our Communities



- We support and train Local Groups to open conversations in their communities
- Our resources are designed to offer help with topics such as building equitable partnerships, hosting accessible events and managing conflict
- The team host weekly drop-in sessions to support Local Group coordinators
- Topics discussed help us plan training and special events, such as our webinar aiming to develop parent-led Groups



WHY WE HOLD EVENTS

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Supporting Healthy, Connected Communities



- Events allow us to meet new people in the local area and enable Local Groups to grow their supporter base.
- Hosting events can be opportunity to model the kind of change we want to bring to local streets- such as Car free Day Play Streets.
- They help Local Groups understand what different needs exist within their community and what barriers there are to change.
- They're fun! They help us excite and motivate our Local Group network about the power they have to make their area even better.



OUR EVENTS, CAMPAIGNS &
INITIATIVES THROUGHOUT THE
YEAR

OUR CAMPAIGNS



Walk to School Week (May)

Pupils will be encouraged to travel sustainably to school every day of the week, earning stickers as they go along, with a special reward up for grabs at the end of the week!

National Walking Month (May)

This year, we encouraged people to #Try20 - and walk for 20 minutes each day during May.

World Car Free Day (September)

When all around the world towns and cities allow people to experience streets free of motor traffic.

International Walk to School Month (October)

An opportunity for children to join hundreds of thousands of pupils across the globe celebrating the walk to school.



OUR EVENTS & INITIATIVES



National Walking Summit (March 2023)

Our summit focuses on how decision-makers can make the changes our streets need to help realise our walking and wheeling goals for public health, air pollution and our local economies.



Badge Design Competition

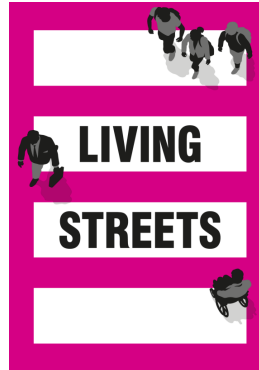
Our annual badge design competition gives pupils the chance to design the new WOW badges. WOW is our flagship walk to school challenge.

WOW Walk of Fame (February)

The WOW Walk of Fame is a simple idea to boost pupils' engagement in our walk to school challenge, WOW, and increase school's walking rates. It challenges pupils to top the Travel Tracker leaderboard!



MEET LOCAL GROUP COORDINATOR - BOLAJI



“ When we heard the project was ending people looked so disappointed. I asked the team what I could do and they said I could start a Local Group. ”



“ I hadn't realised when I started how important being able to chat would be. I've learned that being able to listen and talk to people is so important, it's changed who I am. ”

“ Every week I sent a reminder email about the walk and if I ever forget I start receiving messages asking if we're still going out! The Group are getting more confident and are looking for new places to walk, saying how much they enjoy it. ”



NEXT STEPS

Ask us a question, get in touch, find out more....



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TO WALK WITH US EMAIL

LOCALGROUPS@LIVINGSTREETS.ORG.UK



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