



Engage

Supporting
communities
in Thurrock

Community Forums

Run by
local people
for
local people

What is a community forum?

It is an independent, non political, voluntary group. It offers residents, groups, schools and businesses in an area the opportunity to come together to raise issues about their local area. A community forum allows people a real opportunity to influence decisions and how public services are organised.

Each forum is allocated an annual budget from Thurrock Council and they can apply for funding from other sources. This money is available for local projects and initiatives such as community gardens, play facilities, improving safety etc. Getting involved with your local forum means you can help decide how this money is allocated.

Meetings are regularly attended by the local neighbourhood police team, elected councillors and other public agencies. Local people can raise issues directly with the representatives and the agencies can involve the forum in consultation and information sharing.



So why should you get involved?

Local people should get involved because:

- ◆ It is important **you** have your say on decisions that affect your community
- ◆ **You** know what improvements your area needs
- ◆ **Your** idea for a project could become a reality
- ◆ **You** could really make a difference to your area

Forums are a great way to bring together people from a diverse range of backgrounds, to all work together on achieving real improvements to the area they live in.

Whether you have lived in the area for a long time, or you are new to Thurrock, everyone wants to live in a safe neighbourhood and have access to good quality public services. By joining your local forum you can help to influence all these things.

What can I do to support my local forum?

To get involved in your local forum you do not need any specific skills, just lots of enthusiasm and a wish to make a difference.

Perhaps you enjoy organising events, producing newsletter, website/IT, delivering leaflets or even making the tea.

Maybe you would like to become a committee member, but feel you may lack the skills—don't worry there are lots of free training opportunities available.

Everyone has something to bring to their forum.

Do you belong to a local voluntary/community/faith group? All groups are welcome to become members of their local forum (groups may possibly be able to benefit from some of the funding, subject to meeting agreed criteria)



Everyone is welcome. The more local people who get involved, the stronger the voice of the forum becomes. The membership of a forum should reflect the diversity of the community.

If you would like to get involved with your local forum then please use the contact details in the box below:

If the box is blank, please contact **ngage**

Tel 01375 389893

Email info@ngagethurrock.org.uk

ngage will be happy to pass your details onto your local forum

Forums are supported in their work by **ngage**, an independent organisation that supports and develop area based community groups and forums in Thurrock. Its aim is to encourage community engagement and ensure communities are better informed and involved in the decisions that affect them and their neighbourhoods.

ngage would like to enable more people to become active in their community and to assist them to feel able to take part in decision making and consultation events.

The Beehive
West Street
Grays, Essex
RM17 6XP

Tel 01375 389893
Email info@ngagethurrock.org.uk