

Delayed Office Opening for Employee Training

This Office will be closed from 8.45am – 11.00am on the 1st Thursday of each month

Public Space Management
Head of Service Adam Olejnik

Pullar House 35 Kinnoull Street
Perth PH1 5GD

Contact Diane Cassidy
Direct Dial (01738) 475396
E-mail: DCassidy@pkc.gov.uk

Our ref *

Your ref *

Date 17th March 2009

Dear Community Council

I am writing to invite you to nominate a settlement for the next Placecheck community engagement event.

Background

Placecheck was developed in the late 1990's by the Urban Design Alliance (UDAL). This successful scheme has been implemented in many places across the UK from neighbourhoods wanting to improve their local streets and open spaces to whole settlements getting involved.

Placecheck is a simple way of getting communities to identify what they like and don't like about where they live. Communities identify and work with different partners and also take action themselves, to improve their environment.

Recently the Placecheck method has been trialled in Errol and Dunning and has been successful in effectively engaging communities on public space issues. In view of the heavy demand on resources, it has been decided to give one community per year the opportunity to participate in the Placecheck process. Communities must have around 2000 residents. It is acceptable for two smaller communities to join together to run an event.

Process

It is important for communities who want to be involved in Placecheck to be fully committed to the Placecheck process. It is also important that there are community members available to assist with the running of the events. The process although very rewarding and beneficial to the community is also time consuming and the community needs to be committed to taking forward issues that are identified.

The process usually takes place as follows:

- The initial Placecheck event usually takes place in a venue and at a day and time that is suitable for involving the majority of community members
- Participants include local community members and representatives from organisations who work in the community.
- The process starts with groups doing a walkabout, with cameras and questionnaires to record their views about the quality of the environment and areas for improvement.
- After the walkabout, group discussions take place to agree short, medium and long term priorities for the area.

- After the initial Placecheck event, further meetings and workshops are held to work through the priorities and consult further on projects identified.
- Funding is identified and improvement works carried out in the area.

The initial Placecheck event is envisioned to take place at the end of August, although obviously the community concerned will be involved fully in the decision making and planning. The whole Placecheck process will take place over approximately an 18 month period. The relationships and partnerships created and the improvements to the area developed by the Placecheck process should continue to enhance the community for many years to come.

Resources

To take Placecheck forward on an equitable basis and to make best use of resources, criteria has been developed to ensure suitable settlements are selected in a fair and transparent way. Scoring will assist with prioritisation where several communities can demonstrate a need for Placecheck. All submissions will be assessed by a working group before a programme is drawn up.

How to get involved

Please send a short note of interest to myself, by email to DCassidy@pkc.gov.uk by the **31st March 2009** giving your name, your position in the community and the best methods to contact you. Applicants will be contacted soon thereafter to arrange a meeting in your community with interested parties so that you can find out more about Placecheck and at that point, I will assist those interested to fill in an application for your area to apply to run a Placecheck event.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like any further information.

Yours sincerely

Diane Cassidy
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