

Action points for successful churchyard projects involving the local community

Projects may result from a desire to enhance and improve or interpret the churchyard for people and wildlife. Projects may also develop as a way of bringing local people together to share their knowledge, interest and skills.

The following points provide some guidance:
Hold a meeting of interested people to discuss the idea of starting a special churchyard project.

Decide how the group will organise itself eg sub group of PCC or Parish Council.

Make sure everyone in the community knows what the plan/project will do and how the group is organised - invite new members and maybe arrange a slide talk or churchyard walk to raise awareness. Let people know how they can be involved.

Get in touch with like-minded/interested people, through already established groups e.g. Parish Council, to share ideas and let them know what is happening.

Make sure everyone has a chance to contribute his or her particular skills to the project.

Delegate work around the group e.g. fund raising, publicity, photos.

Decide on the project plan - what you want to do, when you want to do it, who will do it and what it will cost.

Investigate training for volunteers on specific subject's e.g. Fund raising, publicity and promotion.

Begin fund raising. Seek advice from relevant organisations.

When grants come in ensure the proper monitoring and administration systems are in place.

Keep everyone in touch with what is going on - by newsletter or meetings Make sure the press and media know what is going on. Keep a

photographic record of the project.

Make sure your project is carried out in a sustainable way. See the sustainability checklist.

Don't lose heart if things don't happen overnight. Motivation, enthusiasm and patience are essential.

Have fun and celebrate your achievements

