



What is a local community?

A community is a group of people who are linked in some way. They might live in the same area or share the same interests, ideas or beliefs. Some communities are made up of people who work together, and others are formed by people who go to the same school or do the same activities. It is common for people in a community to regularly talk to and support one another.

There are many kinds of communities, and you are part of a few, even though you might not know it. Some examples of communities are:

- Families
- Schools and school classes
- Volunteer groups
- Clubs, bands, and groups that meet for a common reason like music, sport, or art
- Neighbours
- People who work together or in similar jobs
- Business groups
- Religious groups
- Online forums or chat groups
- People who share a cultural and/or ethnic background.

Community is a term used in to describe the entire population of a council area which is made up of many different local and shared interest groups and individuals.

Communities engage with their local government in different ways, using the services and facilities provided and talking about the local area and what changes could improve the community.

One of the opportunities for local councils is listening and responding to the many different voices in the community. Councils work hard to talk to the community, listen and act on what matters to them. Councils need to think not just about current community needs, but also future needs. A sense of community is a feeling we have when we are supported, listened to, and valued. Councils work hard to improve a sense of community by listening and acting on the community's feedback.

Getting involved in your local community can help make you feel a sense of community. When your beliefs and values grow stronger, and you are motivated and optimistic, you can feel good about communicating your ideas with others. Councils have a range of ways you can connect with others, get involved and make a difference in your local area.



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References:

'Community', Merriam-Webster, Jan 2024.

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/community>

Local Government Association SA