

## Support and training opportunities

Although some of the residents may have experience of organising community projects, other people might be keen to have some training and support. In many areas there are organisations that can offer opportunities – they may be called **Voluntary and Community Support Organisations (VCS)** or similar. Ask about your local one at your library or Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), ring your local Council Community Development team or look on-line.

The organisation will probably be able to help with an informal chat about the best ways to do things such as encouraging neighbours or keeping up momentum, or

Formal training on such things as forming a residents group and how to run it, keeping the group's accounts, organising events and applying to local community funds (they may help you to fill in the forms). Other training options may include:

### Visits to other groups

Ask the local Council if they know of any similar resident led traffic schemes in your area, or residents' groups that you can share ideas with.

### Children's workshops

Ask around or look in your library or phone book for a local Children's Scrapstore or children's entertainer who will give you ideas about running children's sessions. You will have to pay for this but it will be good training if you do not feel confident in this area.

### Press and media

You may be able to arrange a visit to a local newspaper office and talk with a local journalist so that you have an idea of the news items that they like and how to write a press release.

### Disability needs

Why not ask along to a meeting someone from Age Concern, RNIB, RNID or other organisations that support people with disabilities or access needs so you get some idea of people's requirements.



**Cycling training**

Ask your council's cycling officer if she/he can arrange a session in your street or a suitable space nearby. It will encourage people to cycle and help you see how your street needs to be changed to accommodate cyclists safely.

**Tree officer / landscape architect** – your Council will probably have a tree officer and may also have a landscape architect who advise on street planting and landscaping. Ask if they can come and meet the residents and give you some design ideas.

**Information about existing DIY Streets** – Contact Sustrans on 0117 926 8993 or look at [www.sustrans.org.uk/diystreets](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/diystreets) for valuable information about the original DIY Streets projects.

**Fundraising** – there are some courses in fundraising that might be useful for someone in your street to attend. See [www.fundraisingskills.co.uk](http://www.fundraisingskills.co.uk) or ring 0191 276 3261

**Community skills** - The Academy for Sustainable Communities ([www.ascskills.org](http://www.ascskills.org) 0113 394 4630), the National Communities Resource Centre ([www.traffordhall.com](http://www.traffordhall.com) 01244 300246) and other organisations offer.

**Working with professionals** - The Glass House supports and encourages good partnerships between communities and professionals who are working together to improve a neighbourhood. The Glass-House Community Led Design 020 7490 4582  
[info@theglasshouse.org.uk](mailto:info@theglasshouse.org.uk) [www.theglasshouse.org.uk](http://www.theglasshouse.org.uk)