



Community Mapping & Town Audits

At a glance

The best approach to community mapping will be unique to your area. A useful starting point is to look at what your community already knows and does; how people use local spaces, what works well, and where challenges exist.

By bringing together local knowledge and lived experience, you can identify gaps, highlight strengths, and uncover practical opportunities for improvement.

Useful Resources

[Age Friendly Communities: Mapping Tool](#)

[Spotlights on Ageism: The Built Environment](#)

What is Community Mapping?

Community mapping is a simple way to understand how well your local area works for residents—especially older people—by identifying what’s working, what’s missing, and what could be improved.

Why Do It?

- Identify barriers to accessibility and inclusion
- Gather real experiences from residents
- Highlight quick wins and longer-term priorities
- Build evidence for funding and planning decisions
- Support age friendly and inclusive communities

- Seating – Is there enough? Is it comfortable and well placed?
- Pavements – Are they even, wide, and obstacle-free?
- Lighting – Is it adequate and consistent?
- Crossings – Are they safe and easy to use?
- Toilets – Are they available and accessible?
- Signage – Is it clear, readable, and bilingual (Welsh/English)?
- Public spaces – Are they welcoming and easy to use?



Plan

- Choose a specific area (e.g. high street, park, key walking route)
- Decide your focus (e.g. accessibility, safety, age friendliness)
- Set a date and identify who to involve



Engage

- Invite a mix of residents, especially older people
- Include local groups, businesses, and councillors
- Keep it simple and welcoming—no technical knowledge needed



Map & Audit

- Walk the area together and observe
- Take photos
- Make notes on a printed or digital map
- Encourage open discussion



Review & Act

- Bring findings together
- Identify quick wins
- Highlight longer term priorities
- Share results with partners and the community
- Use findings to support funding bids or local plans

Top Tip: Don't aim for perfection—small changes make a big difference.

Take a powerful first step toward creating safer, more inclusive, and more welcoming places for all.

Want to Find Out More?

For more information on the One Voice Wales Cost-of-Living Crisis project contact the team at:



CoLC@onevoicewales.wales



<https://bit.ly/3KYHftK>



[One Voice Wales Website](#)