



SETTING PRIORITIES

It will be much easier for you to set priorities once you know what the issues are – and you'll probably have worked that out in the first meeting or two.

Many of the tips for running the first meeting still apply – remember to think about the venue, time and date, refreshments, letting people know about the meeting, setting an agenda, and making sure everyone gets a chance to contribute.

Once the meeting starts, you can:

- Recap the issues or opportunities identified at the first meeting.
- Add any that the group have thought of since.
- Start prioritising.

There are a number of ways to set priorities, and you can choose whatever suits your group best. As a starting point, you might want to think about each issue in terms of:

- Whether there's broad agreement in the group that it actually is an issue.
- How significant a barrier it is to your neighbourhood being walking-friendly.
- How much work it will take to resolve (some quick wins at the start of a group's life can help build momentum and enthusiasm for the cause!).
- How much time and what resources and skills you have available within the group.

Once you've answered those questions, you can run down the list of issues and separate them into:

- **Short term goals** – work will start right away, and the issue can probably resolved within a month or two using the skills and resources of the group.
- **Medium term goals** – more research or understanding is needed, and the issue will probably take three to six months to fix, possibly with a little outside help.
- **Long term goals** – outside help (such as funding from a local council) will definitely be required, lots more information is needed, and the issue may take at least a year to fix.



Run through the list one last time, just to confirm that there's general agreement to the priorities you've set, and then agree next steps, such as:

- Holding another meeting specifically focusing on forming the group and the committee.
- Planning a neighbourhood working bee or some other activity to fix some of the short term issues (see our list of stuff you can do yourself).
- Undertaking some research to better understand the medium term issues (see the resource on our website called 'building your case for change for tips on how to do this).
- Drafting a letter or petition on a particular issue, to be circulated within the group and the neighbourhood (see our tips for successful advocacy resource for more help).