

## Things to find out about in Neighbourhood venues

### Seminar groups have suggested the following items be built into a proforma for visiting neighbourhood venues:

- *Do people meet in this neighbourhood? For what? Where, how often? What days and times do people meet? What is the finish time?*
- *Do I need to attend all the time? Can I remain anonymous here or will people demand my participation? Can I easily keep part of myself private?*
- *Can you bring up issues to talk about? Will people let me speak and then listen?*
- *Is it easy to get to? What are the transport links? Where do I get the bus or park my car? How do I get home?*
- *Where are local events advertised – library, post office, community centre? How do you access the activity? Do you need an invitation or can you just go along? Is it accessible for me in my wheelchair? Are there toilets?*
- *Does it cost anything?*
- *Is there a chairperson or is it informal? Are any notes taken of discussions? Can I read some notes of past meetings? Are they in an accessible format?*
- *Are people welcoming? What is the atmosphere like? What are the local unwritten rules?*
- *Is it for everyone – all ages, genders, ethnicities, or just for people born here? Is there evidence of prejudice or intolerance?*
- *Have there been previous NIMBY campaigns or high-risk people identified in the neighbourhood? How are conflicts between neighbours resolved – does anyone provide neighbourhood mediation?*
- *Is there a time commitment for this meeting or for a series of meetings?*
- *Can I get a cup of tea? Can I smoke?*
- *Are there any expectations of members? Do I need previous experience?*
- *Do you go? Do you know anyone who goes? Can I come along with you or can you put me in touch with people who I might go along with?*
- *Is there anyone here with a responsibility for community building?*
- *Can I bring the kids? Is there a crèche?*
- *Is it fun?*
- *Where are the ‘gathering points’ in this community where people meet and talk and a newcomer might be welcomed?*
- *What is this neighbourhood like – housing, amenities, crime rates, employment levels? Do you feel safe here?*
- *Do I want to belong here? Do residents choose to live here or are they placed?*
- *Anything else to note?*

#### Administration

- *Name and contact details of the person who completed this form.*
- *Date of the visit.*