



“We have power as a community”

A journey to action with
the Community Assembly

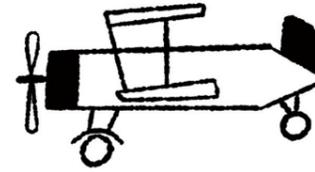
A group of residents in Nechells, Birmingham came together over eight weeks to think about the question “what do we need from our home and neighbourhood, now and in the future, for everyone in Nechells to live a good life?”.

Bringing together their diverse backgrounds and experiences, they came up with lots of recommendations for people like the local council, businesses and organisations, and even other residents, to come together around, for positive change in Nechells. Here’s what they said.

Find out more at thersa.org.

What we think matters to our homes and neighbourhoods, for living a good life:

Sharing the great things and having a positive narrative about where we live

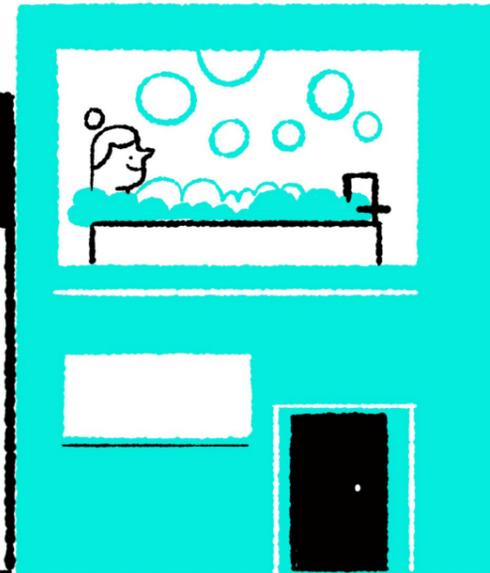


♥ NECHELLS

Having enough local facilities around us, like good transport, GPs, shops and nurseries



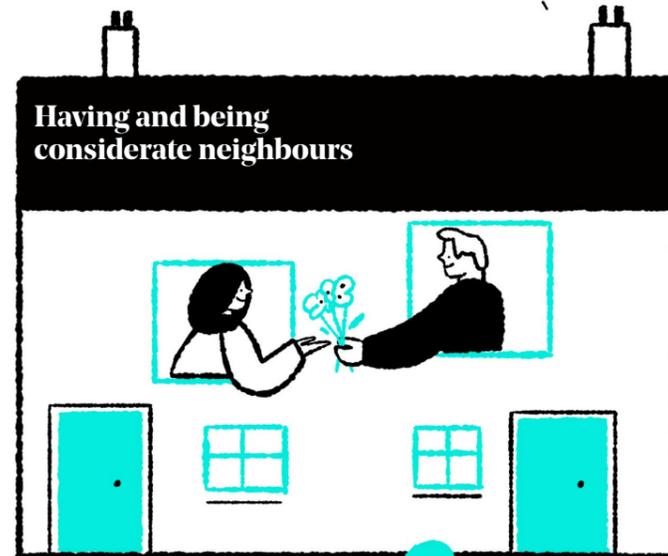
Making sure we can all afford the basic necessities like heating, water and electricity



Making sure residents have a say in the changes happening in their neighbourhood



Having and being considerate neighbours



Making sure our streets are walkable and safe for us to use



Our homes and neighbourhood being clean and well maintained



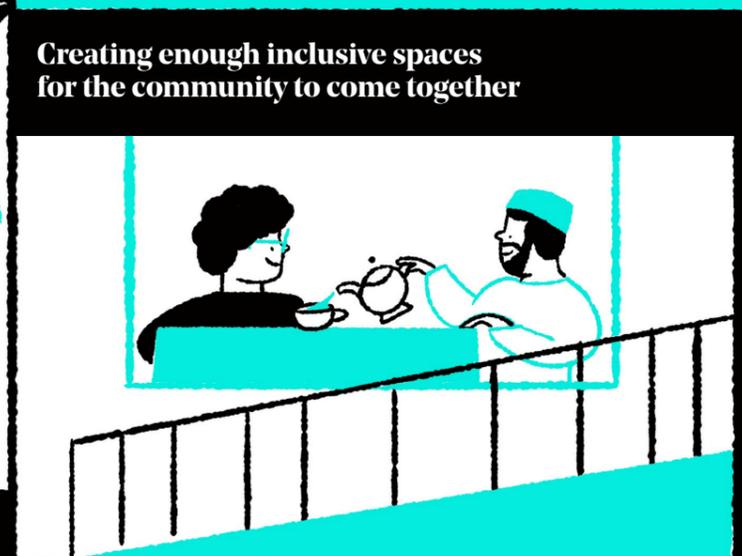
Creating lots of opportunities for us to access our outdoor spaces, green spaces and nature



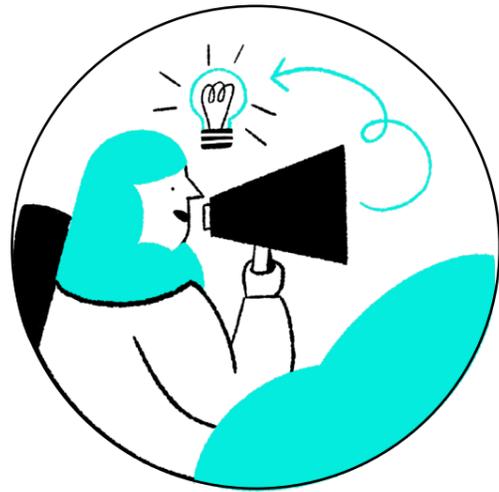
Helping residents to feel safe and secure in the place we live



Creating enough inclusive spaces for the community to come together



Our recommendations:



Amplifying resident voices:

Nechells residents need to come together to put our voices forward and have a say in the changes happening in the neighbourhood. Our recommendations include having inclusive and accessible residents groups, creating spaces for residents to share their ideas like a democracy cafe, and having more council-led and resident-led consultations to get feedback and prioritise resident voices.



Making sure the neighbourhood knows what's going on:

Residents in Nechells need to be better connected to each other. With some funding and support, residents could create local newsletters, community noticeboards and social media. It should be accessible too, for example by translating things into commonly spoken languages. The local council should help residents to create a directory of activities, events and available spaces in the neighbourhood, so everyone can get more involved.



Everyone in Nechells working together:

Everyone who plays a role in Nechells should come together to help to keep it a great place to live. Local politicians need to engage with residents more, and residents and local organisations should work together to do good things for Nechells. Local decision-makers should ask Nechells how they can create better connections with its residents. Local businesses can help to support activities the residents and local organisations do for the neighbourhood.



Having a neighbourhood that is nice to look at:

The place we live should be clean and well-maintained. Residents want to find ways to work together with the council to prevent flytipping and rubbish. Our recommendations include the council asking residents where to put more bins and recycling bins, creating easier ways to report rubbish, or getting rid of the charge to remove bulky items. Residents can help to create local campaigns, or with some funding and equipment, help to clean up and brighten up the neighbourhood.



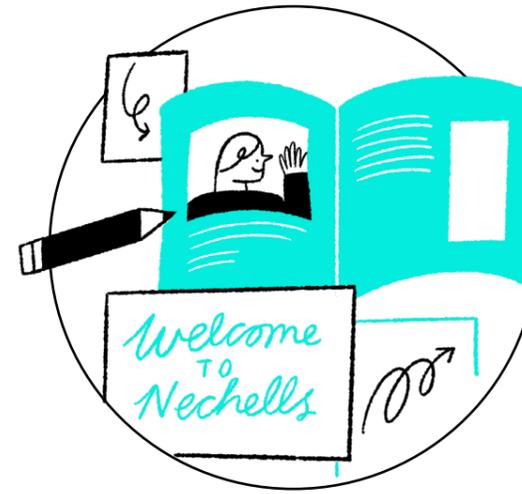
Creating different community spaces for residents to come together:

There needs to be more inclusive spaces for the community to come together. With some funding and support, residents can hold events like a Community Funday, have a local market, or create a community garden. Facilities like basketball courts and outdoor gyms can contribute to better health too. Residents could organise a community skills bank, and local organisations and businesses could provide equipment for people to do things in the neighbourhood. We recommend that the council helps us to release unused local spaces for use.



Making our streets safer and more walkable:

For our health and wellbeing, streets should be safer and more walkable for pedestrians. Our recommendations include the local council working with residents to identify where more speed bumps are needed, where better lighting could be used and where more crossings would be useful. With some support and funding, residents and local organisations could also work together to make streets nicer to use.



Creating a more positive narrative about Nechells:

All of these things would help to create a more positive narrative about Nechells, both within and outside the neighbourhood. But residents can also work with local newspapers or local organisations to share good news and inspirational stories about the community. With some funding and support, residents could come together to make the neighbourhood more visually appealing. Residents and funders can work with local schools to design street signs and artwork.

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