

Leaving Certificate Geography Resource

Neighbourhood Planning

Age

16+

Aim

This activity is to design a neighbourhood which is connected by integrated transport links.

Objective

This exercise is suitable for Leaving Certificate geography students. Students are encouraged to be creative and explore alternative solutions to transport problems.

What you need

1. 1:50,000 OS map
2. Tracing paper
3. Coloured pencils

What to do

1. Discuss what a neighbourhood is and what facilities are required to sustain a neighbourhood.
2. Discuss what sustainable transport is and how it can help create a more environmentally friendly and inclusive neighbourhood.
3. Break the class down into different groups and get them to trace the outline of a) an existing neighbourhood, or, b) a Greenfield site.
4. Each group has to design a neighbourhood which can be easy to access by everyone in the community (children, the disabled & the elderly etc). The focus of the exercise is to create a good network of cycle paths, pathways, bus routes and trains links which can link up with all essential facilities.
5. The key facilities which should be included are: houses, schools, hospitals, shops, work places, theatres and parks.
6. The students could also explore how high density developments i.e. high rise, can promote sustainable transport options.
7. The final maps can be displayed in class and each group should explain the reasons behind their choices.
8. This activity could be expanded to discuss sustainable development in its wider context.