Neighbourhood Planning

Green-Schools Travel

Neighbourhood planning is where communities prepare a shared vision to shape the development and growth of their local area. This activity asks students to look at their own local area and design a neighbourhood that is sustainable and connected by integrated transport links.

Aim	Explore the concept of sustainability and neighbourhood planning
Age Group	This exercise is suitable for Leaving Certificate geography students. Students are encouraged to be creative and explore alternative solutions to transport problems.
Curricular Links	Leaving Certificate Geography • *Geography Core Unt 2: Regional Geography* • *Higher Level Geography – Global Interdependence (Optional Unit 6)*
Materials	1:50,000 OS map , tracing paper, Coloured pencils
Preparation	Discuss what a neighbourhood is and what facilities are required to sustain a neighbourhood. Invite students to discuss what sustainable transport is and how it can help create a more environmentally friendly and inclusive neighbourhood.
Activity	a) Break the class down into different groups and get them to trace the outline of a) an existing neighbourhood, or, b) a Greenfield site. b) 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. • The key facilities which should be included are: houses, schools, hospitals, shops, work places, theatres and parks. c) The students could also explore how high density developments i.e. high rise, can promote sustainable transport options. d) The final maps can be displayed in class and each group should explain the reasons behind their choices.
Extension Activities	This activity could be expanded to discuss sustainable development in its wider context. Refer to SDG11: Sustainable cities and communities.

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