# **Community Fête**



**What is it?**

Community fêtes are a themed co-operative process where information, ideas and opinions are shared between everyone taking part. This can be a “drop in” event, that people can attend over the course of a few hours. This method works best when engaging with a community of 20+ people. It can be used as an opportunity to bring the community together in a less formal manner.

**Advantages**

* Less formal atmosphere can attract broader audience than a more formal consultation process
* Can be organised by a local community, enabling their voices are heard throughout the process
* Can attract a wide variety of people from different backgrounds and ages within the community

**Disadvantages**

* Time consuming to organise and put on
* Will need volunteers to help run on the day

**How to use?**

Choose a venue (indoors or outdoors) that is convenient, inclusive and accessible. Decorate the venue with traditional fête or festival items (such as bunting, flags, banners, beanbags, pop-up tents etc) and set up a series of “stalls” with key topics that you wish to discuss. Have team members welcome everyone at the door to explain the purpose of the event and encourage them to participate.

On each stall have open-ended questions (such as “what matters to you?”), with comment cards (these can be themed, e.g. leaves, t shirts, bunting) that can be completed and displayed on “washing-lines” or “trees”. Provide refreshments for attendees, such as tea, coffee, cake and fruit. Encourage people to read and comment on each other’s suggestions. If possible, take pictures of the event and post to social media (make sure to get consent for this). Once the session is completed, you can take pictures of the feedback, or gather the information in a Word document to analyse.

An example of a Community Fete event and an image consent guide can be found on the companion website: <https://bit.ly/2UXC2Xk>