

Motion

The SNP group calls on Inverclyde Council to support the recent report issued by the national charity "Living Streets" where it looks at how we can transform our streets 'into welcoming spaces that builds communities and improves the happiness and wellbeing of everyone'.

Proposed: Cllr Jim MacLeod, Deputy Leader SNP Group

Seconded: Cllr Innes Nelson SNP Group

Executive Summary (Living Streets - report August 2012)

Transforming our streets into welcoming spaces builds communities and improves the happiness and wellbeing of everyone. Strong communities are built around active and busy streets. Living Streets' experience has shown that making streets attractive and safe encourages more people to actively use them. When our streets are transformed into welcoming public spaces, local communities thrive, neighbourhoods become safer, and we all become fitter and healthier.

In our busy modern lives, many of us have forgotten the importance of our streets. We have got used to streets that do not feel safe, that look unattractive and messy and where there are no local services. We no longer see streets as „places“ to go to; they tend to be places we go through.

Without thriving streets we forget that we are part of a community. When we stop using our streets and taking pride in the places we live and work, our streets are left to deteriorate. People can become isolated from their communities and neighbourhoods feel more dangerous.

However, improving our streets is simple and achievable. And, as the case studies in this report show, local councils have a key role in helping to improve the state of our streets. Local political leadership is crucial; street champions are needed in every local authority to ensure that the pedestrians and the state of our streets get the priority they deserve.

This report examines:

- what we mean by better streets in „create streets for people“
- who should be taking responsibility by „working better together“ and
- how to improve the state of our streets in „protect the streetscape“

It is aimed primarily at local councillors and local council officers. However, it should be of interest for anyone, from national government to community groups, concerned with the state of our streets. Twelve summary recommendations are listed below.