

Mapping for Change

Here are some examples of how communities across London have used community mapping to work on the changes taking place in their neighbourhoods.



Five years ago...

London 21 pioneered the first online interactive Green Map.



The London Green Map (www.greenmap.london21.org) is a web based resource that highlights activities, events and organisations focused around sustainability across the capital. Over 1400 organisations are now listed.

Two years ago...

We started work on new web based tools for the first community mapping website of its kind. Each community map grows and evolves in a way which is determined by the community. We train and support groups to develop and manage their own maps. The items mapped range from views about the demolition of high-rises to the need for better local facilities.

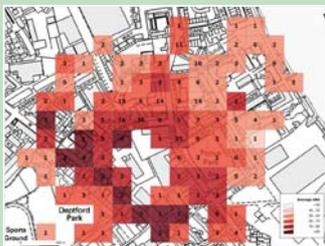
Many communities face change through regeneration and planning developments. These tools and processes provide an innovative mechanism for communication and can ensure that the views of all affected are genuinely represented. This allows local knowledge to be incorporated into new plans.

For our first map we trained a group of volunteers in Marks Gate, Barking to interview local people about issues within the community. Over 100 residents were reached within this small neighbourhood. This led to a list of community driven action points which formed the first stage of their Community Map and many of the points were incorporated into the Neighbourhood Management plan.



Hackney Wick Community Map highlights elements of local history in addition to community views, facilities, Olympic developments, transport details and more

Recently we worked in Hackney Wick, next to the Olympic development. The communities wanted to create an archive of local history amidst the ongoing changes. Using both paper based and online mapping the community have captured historical elements that have contributed to the character of the area along with information about current local action.



The Pepys estate map shows results of a noise monitoring survey

We helped create a different map in the Pepys estate in Lewisham, training local people to monitor noise levels around a scrap-yard near their homes. Their map shows how 'citizen science' can help tackle local problems.

All our community maps are now on the internet – www.communitymaps.london21.org



Now...

London 21 has set up **Mapping for Change** as a 'social enterprise', in partnership with University College London, to develop this work. It is often difficult to assess and agree community priorities about quality of life issues. Local authorities and other service providers have an important part to play in addressing the concerns of their residents. Community mapping can help identify the priorities for action and help bring together communities and professionals to map out and agree what needs to be done.



School mapping field day

We hold workshops and meetings in the local community. These can be open to all or organised for groups such as young people in a school. Working with schools enables us to provide a cross-generational perspective to the community views and characteristics.

These events inform people about planned developments and the information available about their neighbourhood. These discussions allow people to share their knowledge which we map. This step in the process enables us to collect and collate the information often missed through more traditional approaches to public consultation. This process puts people's knowledge and ideas firmly 'on the map' to help make sure that change and development meets their needs.



Workshop in Hackney Wick surrounding the Olympic development

Mapping for Change is now working with faith groups of all denominations across London to develop a unique London-wide online map and directory of faith-based activity on environmental issues. Other maps will look at local food growing and action on climate change as well as maps about specific communities.

