

Why be an assessor?

Sarah Turnill

I had the experience of being assessed for Its Your Neighbourhood for three years with our own streets Residents Association woodland garden. The process gave us help and support to achieve a high standard and we got the recognition for our efforts.



I decided to volunteer a few years ago as an assessor. It can always be said that the busiest person can always find time somehow and that proved the case with me. But I managed to email all the groups and get a plan of action together eventually.

I'm really glad I volunteer.... I have been privileged to meet some wonderful, hardworking people aspiring to make their gardens and environments the best they could with the resources they had available. I climbed steep steps, looked at veg patches in unexpected areas of land, met groups of people cultivating grass verges and village planters and walked round vast parks in the rain. I felt like a V.I.P. at times.

I hope I am able to encourage, advise and give feedback just as I had received when our street went through the assessment. There are so many people out there giving their time, finding the enthusiasm and enhancing the community, It's quite refreshing to think this is going on throughout the year not just on assessment day.

The writing of the reports that the groups are so eagerly awaiting took some doing as you need organisation and a good memory! I learnt to take good notes and scribble comments and this helped me to complete the job as best I could.

If you have some time this summer, volunteering is a great way to see new places, meet lots of interesting people and be inspired at what is being achieved out there.

