



**as one** <sup>©™</sup>

**A fresh start for community spirit.  
Be part of it, on your street,  
with a smile and a chat – a piece of cake!**



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Local communities  
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**WORCESTERSHIRE**



# tea party event

[www.as-one.uk](http://www.as-one.uk)

## Your role



### 1. Invite your street to tea!

There will be a lovely tea party prepared for local people to bring them together and to give a big boost to friendliness and neighbourliness, with local residents invited through an invitation letter, using the As One brand (which many people will recognise).

If your own street is one of the ones to be invited, the idea is to deliver the letter through every letterbox on your street about a week before the event. If you feel you can, knock on the doors and personally hand people the invitation letter, as they're more likely to come (and actually read the letter!) with the personal touch.

Ask them if they've seen the 'Fill your street with friendliness' banners all over town. Tell them that we're trying to build on the friendliness we saw especially during the first Lockdown and see it flourish, long-term! Come to the tea party and help make it happen.



### 2. Be a host

At the tea party, you get to 'host' all the people who come from your street. You sit at the table reserved for your own street and see who joins you. Get to know them as they arrive by asking them lots of question. For example, you could ask them which is their house number, how long they've lived there, what family do they have, do they work and so on. And you can tell them about yourself.

Many people will have gone through different kinds of hardship over the last two years. Some will have lost a loved one, many will have experienced anxiety, perhaps the loss of a job, intense isolation or the fear of getting ill. As people come together after a difficult period in many of their lives, it's important that they are welcomed with love, warmth and understanding. Ask people what has been the most difficult aspect of the pandemic for them; and also whether there have been any positive aspects. It's good to give people a chance to share what they've been through. And you can tell them about yourself - simply chat.

Continued....



Fill our streets with friendliness®



## BACK TOGETHER CELEBRATION

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### 3. Discuss a new idea!

From the front, we'll tell them about the idea of forming a Street Association.

Many streets have done this and a few residents form a 'core group', meeting a few times a year to think of activities that could bring residents from your street together. For example, Street Associations often put on things like a children's party (perhaps at Christmas) in a local hall, or a picnic or barbecue, a coffee morning, a quiz night or a trip away.

Encourage your table to discuss the idea. What do people think? Who thinks it's a good idea to encourage more connection? Is building community important and who would benefit?



### 4. Dream up a first event

After another message from the microphone, discuss what could be a good first event to draw people together (perhaps a street party?).

Could you, as a group, put out another invitation letter to a 'get to know you' evening in someone's house to begin with, or even under a gazebo on the street? Is there already a WhatsApp group that could help spread the word?



### 5. Come up with a plan

Look out for who's taking the lead in the discussion. Is there a natural leader there? Maybe that person should be asked to chair the discussion and coordinate things.

- You'll need to decide what, where and when and how to contact the rest of the street.
- Be sure to bring a pen and paper so that you can collect everyone's contact details.
- What about starting a WhatsApp or Facebook group for the street if there isn't one?

The key thing is to be clear about who is going to do what next – and get the thing started, while you're all together. If everyone leaves with good intentions, but no plan, it's likely to lead to nothing!

This will be the start of something that will change the street for the better and bring a new loving, supportive, smiling atmosphere to where you all live. What a privilege. Let's go for it!

And let's get the message out! **Please cut out this sticker and put it in your window (or car)** – and if possible follow As One on social media and share with your network ('asoneuk' for Facebook and Instagram, 'asoneukcampaign' for Twitter). Thanks!

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[www.as-one.uk](http://www.as-one.uk)

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you fancy! Some events attract lots of residents, others just a handful (people are busy, a child falls ill, others forget), but don't be discouraged: a small gathering can be best for building friendships – and we've seen small groups change a street forever!

### The thing is to:

- believe it really matters
- have a heart to make a difference
- persist (good things often need time to develop)
- join with a few others to make a heart to the fire
- make a way to communicate (WhatsApp, Facebook, email etc)
- create a simple structure (e.g. a core group with someone to chair it)

### Ready to start a Street Association on your street?

Something like 50-100 houses is an ideal catchment area (too large and it becomes a bit irrelevant. People like to meet near-neighbours). A small cul-de-sac can

be linked to the street it connects to and a large street could be split into two associations.

To get things going, you can join with a few residents to deliver a letter saying 'come and join us' - see [www.as-one.uk/streetassociations](http://www.as-one.uk/streetassociations) for a suggested text you could download - and meet for the first time in someone's house, in a nearby hall or under a gazebo on a patch of green. Have a relaxed half hour getting to know each other. Talk about the difference a Street Association makes and see if people like the idea. Then see who wants to be part of a core group to make things happen; collect everyone's contact details so that you can easily be in touch again; and come up with an idea for a first event. Go on – give it a try!

The comment we've most frequently heard is: "I was surprised how nice everyone was!"

Why not start by getting everyone to put one of these stickers in their window, to let the street know that something's happening – and to keep affirming to everyone over time that you are becoming a supportive, loving, smiling, friendly community?





# Fill your street with friendliness<sup>®</sup>

## Introducing 'Street Associations'

Friendship – fun – belonging – a helping hand

Over decades, we've seen in the UK a decline in community spirit.

But then came the Coronavirus pandemic! So many of us were out on the streets, clapping the NHS, volunteering to help neighbours, showing friendliness and support. It's as if we rediscovered how precious real community can be.

Now, rather than letting it evaporate as things return to 'normal', how about making community spirit a permanent feature of our own street? But how?

Streets have actually been forming Street Associations for 10 years. Pictured below are a quiz night for the adults, a Christmas party for the kids and a barbecue for the street, from three different Street Associations.

It's really enjoyable – and makes a huge difference. People who share the same street get to know each other, smile and wave, stop and chat – and are ready to help each other.

There's a lovely sense of belonging. Isolation has a practical answer. The generations mix. People find they have things in common with people they'd never met. Friendships form. The atmosphere changes.

And people have fun, creating (we've had reports) a street that no-one wants to leave.

It doesn't need an act of Parliament to make this happen: just a few residents who get together and invite the rest of the street to join them. Then put on two, three or four events a year, like a street party, a barbecue, a trip away, kids' party, coffee morning, a games evening or whatever

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