**Approaches to Community Development**

There are numerous overlapping approaches to community development. Some focus on the processes, some on the outcomes/ objectives. They include:

* [**Women Self-help Group**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Self-help); focusing on the contribution of women in settlement groups.
* **Community** [**capacity building**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capacity_building); focusing on helping communities obtain, strengthen, and maintain the ability to set and achieve their own development objectives.
* [**Large Group Capacitation**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Large_Group_Capacitation); an adult education and social psychology approach grounded in the activity of the individual and the social psychology of the large group focusing on large groups of unemployed or semi-employed participants, many of whom with Lower Levels of Literacy (LLLs).
* [**Social capital**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_capital) **formation**; focusing on benefits derived from the cooperation between individuals and groups.
* [**Nonviolent direct action**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Direct_Action); when a group of people take action to reveal an existing problem, highlight an alternative, or demonstrate a possible solution to a social issue which is not being addressed through traditional societal institutions (governments, religious organizations or established trade unions) are not addressing to the satisfaction of the direct action participants.
* [**Economic development**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic_development), focusing on the "development" of [developing countries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Developing_countries) as measured by their economies, although it includes the processes and policies by which a nation improves the economic, political, and social well-being of its people.
* [**Community economic development**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community_economic_development) (CED); an alternative to conventional [economic development](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic_development) which encourages using local resources in a way that enhances economic outcomes while improving social conditions.
* [**Sustainable development**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sustainable_development); which seeks to achieve, in a balanced manner, economic development, social development and environmental protection outcomes.
* [**Community-driven development**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community-driven_development) (CDD), an [economic development](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic_development) model which shifts overreliance on central governments to local communities.
* [**Asset-based community development**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asset-based_community_development) (ABCD); is a methodology that seeks to uncover and use the strengths within communities as a means for sustainable development.
* **Faith-based community development**; which utilises faith based organisations to bring about community development outcomes.
* [**Community-based participatory research**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community-based_participatory_research) (CBPR); a partnership approach to [research](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Research) that equitably involves, for example, [community](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community) members, organizational representatives, and researchers in all aspects of the research process and in which all partners contribute expertise and share decision making and ownership, which aims to integrate this knowledge with community development outcomes.
* [**Community organizing**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community_organizing); a term used to describe an approach that generally assumes that social change necessarily involves conflict and social struggle in order to generate collective power for the powerless.
* [**Participatory planning**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Participatory_planning) including community-based planning (CBP); involving the entire community in the strategic and management processes of [urban planning](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urban_planning); or, community-level planning processes, urban or rural.
* [**Language-based development**](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Language-based_development&action=edit&redlink=1); or [Language revitalization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Language_revitalization) focuses on the use of a language so that it serves the needs of a community. This may involve the creation of books, films and other media in the language. These actions help a small language community to preserve their language and culture.
* Methodologies focusing on the educational component of community development, including the community-wide empowerment that increased educational opportunity creates.
* Methodologies addressing the issues and challenges of the [Digital divide](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_divide), making affordable training and access to computers and the Internet, addressing the marginalization of local communities that cannot connect and participate in the global [Online community](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Online_community). In the United States, nonprofit organizations such as [*Per* Scholas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Per_Scholas) seek to “break the cycle of poverty by providing education, technology and economic opportunities to individuals, families and communities” as a path to development for the communities they serve.

There are a myriad of job titles for community development workers and their employers include public authorities and voluntary or non-governmental organizations, funded by the state and by independent grant making bodies. Since the nineteen seventies the prefix word ‘community’ has also been adopted by several other occupations from the police and health workers to planners and architects, who have been influenced by community development approaches.

**Committees:**

A committee can be defined as:

“A committee (or "commission") is a body of one or more persons that is subordinate to a deliberative assembly. Usually, the assembly sends matters into a committee as a way to explore them more fully than would be possible if the assembly itself were considering them. Committees may have different functions and the type of work that each committee does would depend on the type of organization and its needs.”

**How to form a committee**

Committees help spread the workload. At its simplest, a committee is simply a group of motivated people who meet regularly, at least one of whom acts as a convener.

However, if you are forming an on-going group or handling money, you may want to want a more structured committee. Here are some steps to follow.

**1) Find a location** for regular meetings. Community or neighborhood centers are usually free and good to work with.

**2) Call a public meeting on the issue** and, at the conclusion, ask for individuals to nominate to form a committee to carry forward the issue. This is the most effective method, as people are often highly focused and motivated at public meetings.

**3) Do the rounds.** Talk to people or groups with similar interests, let them know about the new group, and let them know you’re looking for people who really want to make a difference for children and parents.

**4) Personally ask individuals** who you think have the skills you need. (Be persuasive: First say you’ve been looking for individuals who are recognized as having extraordinary skills and commitment in this area (or similar words), *then* ask them to join!)

**5) At the first committee meeting, elect the following**

**Positions:**

chair, deputy chair, secretary, and treasurer. You may also want to have other positions, like a publicity officer, an entertainment officer, a membership officer, or a fundraising officer.

**The chair**

Chairs meetings and usually acts as spokesperson

**The deputy chair**

He stands in if the chair is absent.

**The secretary**

Keep members informed of meetings; distributes the agenda; takes minutes; helps prepare the agenda with the chair; writes and receives correspondence; keeps membership records;

**The treasurer**

He is the one who looks after finances and accounts.

**6) Give the officeholders a copy of a suitable guide** so they

Understand their responsibilities.

**7) Agree on the next meeting and/or a plan of action**

**Purpose of Committees in Community Development**

* Committees have primary responsibility for coordinating, planning and overseeing local and community development funding;
* Bring a more-joined up approach to the implementation of local and community development programmes and interventions, pursuing an integrated approach to local community based services across providers and delivery structures;
* Drive meaningful citizen and community engagement in the scoping, planning and evaluation of local and community development programmes;
* Pursue a more cost efficient administration of local and community development programmes and delivery structures, the matching of resources to priorities and better value-for money in the management and delivery of programmes;
* Focus on learning and feedback, enhancing the links between services delivery and policy development;
* Pursue opportunities for additional funding for the area, whether exchequer, EU, private or other sources.