

The chair has five key roles.

The first is as chairman and convener of the core group. It's your job to call the first meeting and thereafter keep the meetings happening, keep things moving – getting the core group as a whole to discuss ideas and then making sure that members who say they'll do something actually do it!

We have found that the simplest structure to get (and keep) things going is for the *core group to meet once a month, for just one hour*. That way, it all naturally keeps things moving – and doesn't take too much of anybody's time. We recommend keeping the monthly meetings 'tight', with one hour of 'business', and chat afterwards if people have time to stay on.

You are the one that is asked to have the overview. The guides can help core group members do individual jobs (and are a good source of ideas), but keep it all flexible. Some groups will anyway prefer a 'free flow' way of doing things, with everyone involved across the board.

Second, keep in mind the original purposes of a Street Association. The vision is to make real community where there has been little or none. That particularly means doing things that will allow friendships to form and deepen, and making sure the lonely and vulnerable are not just left to it, but included and looked after where possible. This is about making a community in which people feel they belong, are accepted and cared for. Your job here is to set the right *tone* and try and keep those values at the forefront. There is a Code of Values for a Street Association, which we hope you will find a significant help in this – and also 'Our Street Association vision'. We suggest you talk about these with the core group and, if everyone likes them, that you circulate them to everyone else involved in the Association. It is good to spread vision and to remind people that you are making a really worthwhile commitment to one another. In the end, this is all about people and bringing kindness back to the forefront.

Thirdly, our suggestion is that the Street Association should be an informal grouping, with a very simple set of rules. Basically, anyone can be part of the core group and they tend to grow to about six, eight, ten or even twelve people, which is great – it shares the load and brings more enthusiasm to the Association – or else it reduces to maybe three people who have the enthusiasm and work together to get things done. Either way, one wants to avoid any sense that the core group is a self-appointed 'clique' (potentially causing resentment elsewhere in the street). So we suggest you welcome anyone to the core group who wants to be part of it. Experience shows that many of the best people won't put their name forward, but will be willing to serve when asked. So part of your job is to look out for who would be part of the 'dream team' – and bring them in!

Fourth, it's normally your job to be 'master of ceremonies' at events – making announcements and keeping the thing moving. It helps if you're a bit of an extrovert. But the main thing is to love people!

Fifth, if anything goes wrong, if there's a problem to be resolved, you need to take a lead in making sure it is fixed – even if you delegate the actual job to someone else. You are The Fixer!

Really, the whole success of the Street Association rests on having someone, in your position, to call meetings and make things happen. Have fun with it – and try not to let down those who are looking to you to make a success of it. They are depending on you!