



A Parish or Community Audit explores the reality of the geographical church parish, and identifies the local demographic. Once this has been established, there is the opportunity to further explore how the church and its proposed project can better serve its congregation and community.

The rudimentary aim of the project is likely to be that more people use and engage with the building, the audit will help specify this. Remember to listen to people's thoughts and ideas, and be cautious not to prompt them with what the project intends to offer. Allow time and space for people to put forward their suggestions in a non restrictive context.

Be prepared for the outcome of the audit to radically change your initial proposal. If it does, try hard to embrace it, for it is much better to embark on a project which you know is needed by all, rather than one that you think is needed by some.

A thorough consultation will include meeting with your congregation, the local community, administrators of local services or service providers as well as your town / parish council.

Other Baseline Data

You can use the 2011 census data as your starting point for establishing a better understanding of local demographics <http://www.ons.gov.uk/>

Other baseline data you need to collect is about local organisations and facilities. The more information you collect, the better. Think about the different services and amenities your Community currently has, and what groups of the community they appeal to. Once you've listed these, consider are there any missing and are there any demographic groups currently underrepresented?