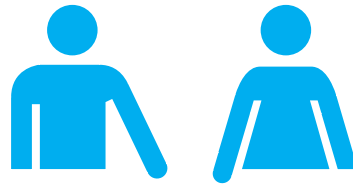


Changing Prague 10 Together

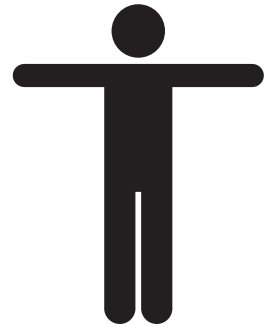
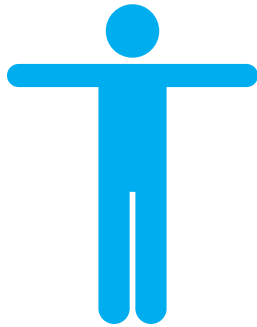
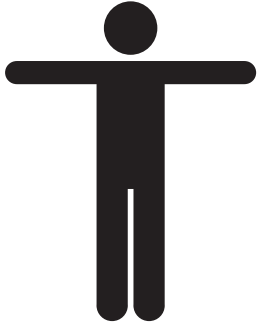


Changing Prague 10 Together

Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| What does Changing Prague 10 Together mean? | 5 |
| Who can participate in Changing Prague 10 Together? | 6 |
| What has already been done? | 9 |
| The opinion survey in April 2008 showed a clear need for more co-operation with Prague 10 citizens in public space improvements | 10 |
| It works in other communities | 13 |
| What will co-operation between citizens and the Prague 10 town hall be like from now on? | 14 |





What does Changing Prague 10 Together mean?

The town hall of the Prague 10 Municipal District is focusing intensely on cultivating the condition of public spaces. Some streets, squares, parks, playgrounds and potentially, even some unused sites in the municipal district need to be changed. Many factors influence the quality and use of these sites, such as the intensity of traffic, the number of parked cars in streets, the scope and condition of vegetation in public spaces and its maintenance as well as the condition of sidewalks and the roadway. Public spaces serve people above all. They help create the quality and genius loci of entire neighbourhoods, provide a place for community life and create a shared space for communication.

At the beginning of 2008, the Prague 10 Municipal District initiated a long-term project entitled [Changing Prague 10 Together](#). Its purpose is to create sufficient [opportunities for every resident of the Prague 10 Municipal District to participate in discussions and revitalisation of local public spaces](#). Changing Prague 10 Together comprises current and future projects focused on co-operation between Prague 10 citizens, town hall representatives and other stakeholders (local businesses, organisations, etc.) in revitalisation of public places in this part of the capital city.



Who can participate in Changing Prague 10 Together?

Everyone who lives, works or is otherwise connected to the Prague 10 community can participate in Changing Prague 10 Together.

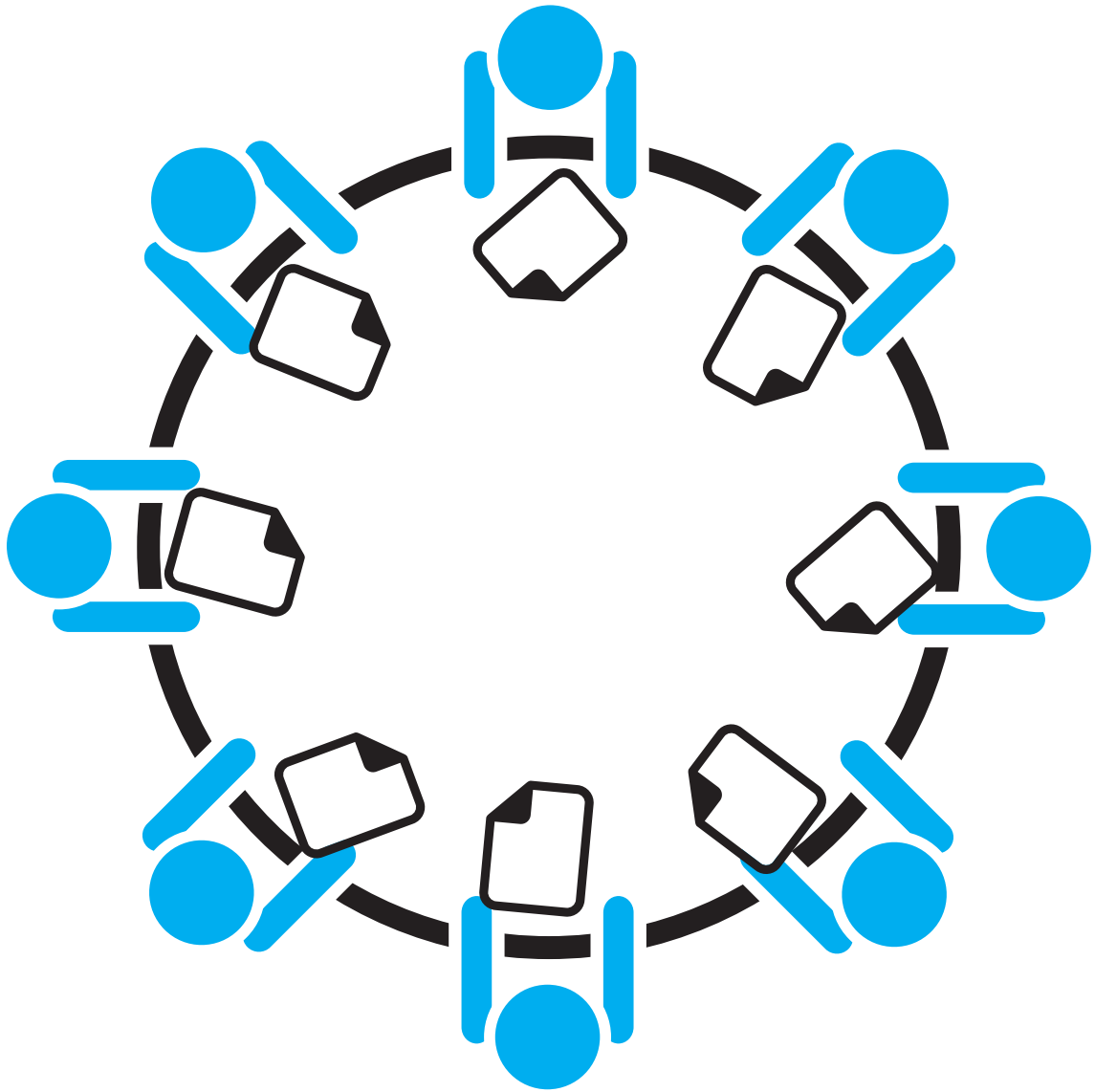
There are many different ways to get involved. You can take part in opinion surveys and public meetings, send your comments on documents under discussion, point out shortcomings or problems in public spaces via email or get directly involved in the design process for a public space improvement in your neighbourhood.

Anyone can become a partner to the Changing Prague 10 Together project. There are many advantages to being a project partner, including:

- ▶ receiving current information about the situation in Prague 10 and the Changing Prague 10 Together project
- ▶ receiving personal invitations to planned events
- ▶ the opportunity to meet active Prague 10 residents who care about the appearance of this part of the city
- ▶ becoming informed about administrative procedures related to public space improvements and the work of the town hall in general
- ▶ the opportunity to directly influence the appearance and functions of public spaces in Prague 10

Becoming a Changing Prague 10 Together project partner is fast and simple. Just fill out the sign-up form at www.Praha10.cz/spolecne.







What has already been done?

The project was launched in 2008 and a number of different activities have already been implemented during the project's first two years.

The first step in co-operation with citizens was a questionnaire survey focused on the most important issues and topics about public spaces throughout Prague 10. Prague 10 residents received the questionnaire in the Prague 10 biweekly newsletter and placed completed questionnaires in collection boxes located throughout the municipal district. The questionnaire could also be filled out electronically and sent to spolecne@praha10.cz. More than 5,000 Prague 10 residents took part in the opinion survey.

Two large community meetings took place. The first meeting, attended by about 160 people, focused on general discussion about public spaces in Prague 10. The second community meeting took place as a step in preparation of the Prague 10 Public Spaces Strategy, which was discussed at the meeting by about 50 participants.

More than 20 exhibits and presentations in the Prague 10 Development Information Centre were held and were visited by a total of more than 5,200 visitors.

The municipal district also launched Barrier-free Prague 10, a project implemented within the Changing Prague 10 Together project, and designated the first pedestrian crosswalks that will gradually be rebuilt as disabled accessible.

A total of over five thousand comments from citizens have been collected through Changing Prague 10 Together to date. The information gathered from residents varies: some ideas can be implemented in a matter of days, while others would require more than a decade. Many ideas contradict one another or are mutually exclusive. As a result, they cannot be addressed one after the other. Their evaluation increasingly showed the need to create a comprehensive strategy for public spaces, which would set forth priorities and which would be based on residents' ideas and comments to the greatest extent possible.

In 2010 the Prague 10 Public Spaces Strategy was approved. It is a binding document that states intended changes in public space management in Prague 10 (in simpler terms: WHAT should be achieved), and also contains the fundamental rules for implementation of those changes (in other words: HOW we will achieve the changes). You can find out more about the Prague 10 Public Spaces Strategy at www.verejneprostory.cz.

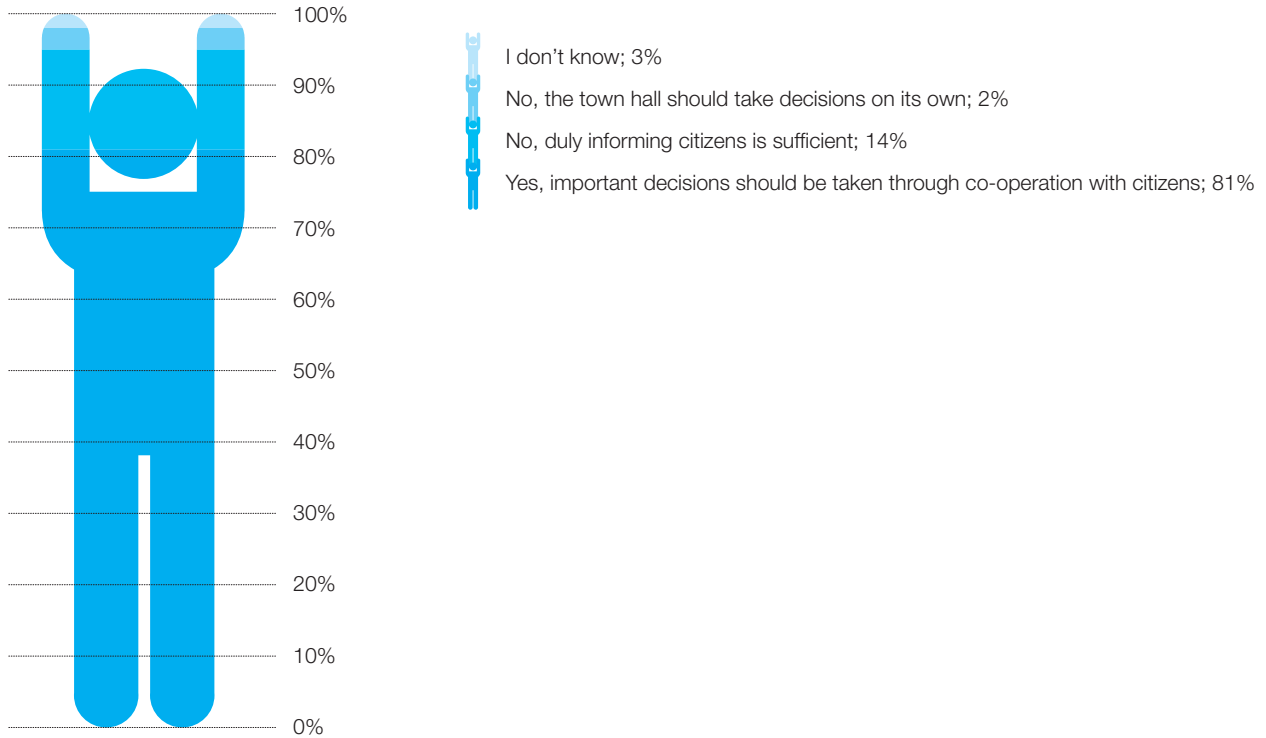


The opinion survey in April 2008 showed a clear need for greater cooperation with Prague 10 citizens in public space improvements

Changing Prague 10 Together is not a unilateral attempt by the town hall to open discussion on the appearance and future of this part of Prague. It is a response to a real need and interest expressed by Prague 10 residents to take part in public space improvements in the municipal district. The opinion survey conducted in April 2008 clearly showed that local residents want the town hall to work more closely with citizens on public space improvements. Over 4,000 of the more than 5,000 respondents agreed with this statement. Prague 10 residents' careful attention to changes in their surroundings was evident in responses to the question, Has the condition of the area surrounding your home improved, grown worse or stayed the same. Every third respondent noticed positive changes in his/her surroundings, while another third of the respondents stated that the condition of their surroundings had either grown worse or stayed the same. In the questionnaire citizens could also express their opinions on how public spaces should look in Prague 10. Some respondents expressed a need for vegetation (both tall and low) on streets and squares, convenient pedestrian paths and sufficient places for resting. In regard to parks and other green spaces, respondents desired lawn areas for relaxing, accessible toilets, an adequate number of benches and trash bins, playgrounds or small play areas and water features.

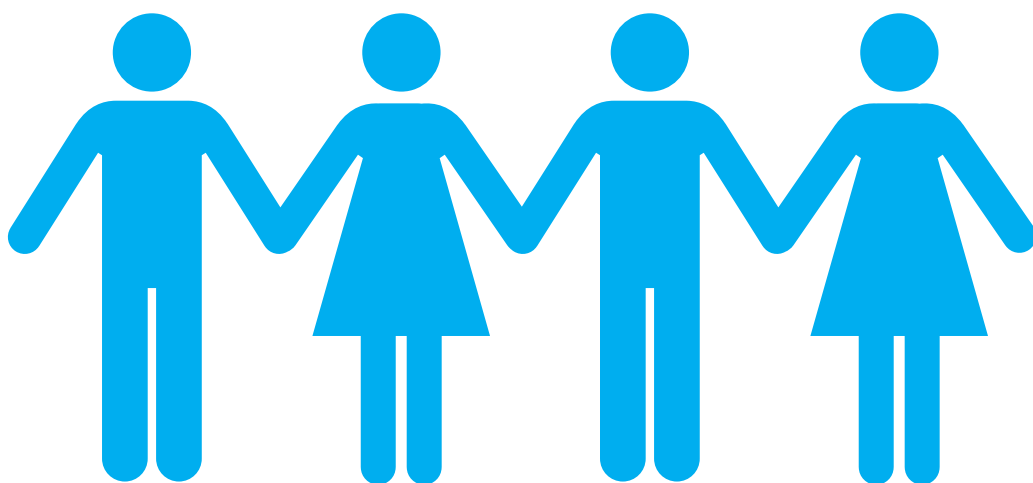


Should the town hall work with citizens on public space improvements?



Condition of surroundings of residents' homes over the past 5 years





It works in other communities

There are many examples of successful co-operation between residents and town halls. In the Bartošova district of Zlín, a housing estate constructed in the late 1950's, residents and the town hall agreed in 2002 on revitalisation of the entire municipal district.

The first step in involving the public in revitalisation of the housing estate was an opinion survey conducted in September 2002. The housing estate has 2,223 residents in 1,074 housing units. A total of 270 completed questionnaires were returned.

The first community meeting with residents of the Bartošova district was held on 15 October. The meeting was attended by approximately 70 people, who were informed of the results of the opinion survey and discussed the most pressing problems of their housing estate. At the conclusion of the community meeting three working groups were formed (No. 1 on transport and parking, No. 2 on road maintenance and No. 3 on flooding and channel revitalisation). Almost half of the meeting participants signed up for the working groups. Two of the groups later merged, which however, did not hinder their active work and preparation of final outcomes (a total of 7 working group meetings took place).

At the second community meeting in December 2002, citizens set priorities (specific investment projects) for the project. In addition to about 80 local residents, town hall representatives, architects and engineers participated in the discussion. The architects and engineers helped the active citizens over the entire course of the project and subsequently used their expertise to prepare the complete housing estate revitalisation plan. The revitalisation plan was approved by the municipal assembly and a multi-year schedule was devised for implementation of all the investment projects.

The various sections of planned improvements were addressed complexly, including public lighting and landscaping. A fundamental change in traffic signage took place in connection to the Bartošova district housing estate revitalisation project. New traffic signage was installed in the district to create a "Zone for right-of-way from the right" and in general traffic improvements in the residential zone resulted in traffic calming, which had been one of local residents' priorities. Another important part of the housing estate revitalisation plan were flood protection measures along the Dřevnice River, which runs through the housing estate, and the water channel that crosses the housing estate.



What will co-operation between citizens and the Prague 10 town

hall be like from now on?

The municipal district has prepared several ways to involve Prague 10 residents in projects that will be implemented in the future. The form of public participation for a given project will be selected with consideration to the character and context of each specific project. It is important that Prague 10 residents know which forms of co-operation with the Prague 10 town hall will be offered.

In any event, residents must be duly and timely informed. [Provision of complete and timely information](#) is a critical pre-requisite for other forms of co-operation as well.

In many cases, it suffices when the town hall or professionals prepare a solution to a given problem and present the proposed solution to the public. An example might be proceedings on a development document, which is first prepared by professionals and then is provided to everyone for discussion at community meetings, on the municipal district's website, etc. This process means that the [town hall](#) prepares the first draft and then [listens to the public](#) to learn whether residents agree with it or how they would modify the proposed solution. On the basis of this feedback a final decision is taken and submitted for approval.

A different situation arises when [discussions with the public](#) about the nature of a given solution take place before it is prepared. Residents may be invited to select possible ways of resolving an issue through a questionnaire survey, and then professionals are asked to prepare a solution based on residents' responses and discuss it with residents at a community meeting.

Active [residents](#) may also become [equal partners](#) in the decision making process if the specifics of the issue at hand accommodate this form of co-operation. In this case the solution is prepared jointly and everyone participating in the process (municipal representatives, individual citizens, organisations, businesses or professionals) work together as equal partners. The town hall may then e.g. invite households in the vicinity of a park to participate in a working group that will prepare a detailed plan for repair and revitalisation of the entire park.

To facilitate an understanding of the different ways the public may be involved we have prepared four simplified scenarios:



[A] Informing

Characteristics/conditions

Timely and complete information reaches every Prague 10 resident

From residents' point of view

Accessible and clear information helps one understand what is happening in Prague 10.

Possible methods and techniques*

Information in Prague 10 newsletter
(in various sections)

Internet site
(www.praha10.cz/spolecne)

Exhibits (in the Land Use Development Centre in the town hall and in other buildings and places)

Publications (brochures, publications, flyers, posters, etc.)

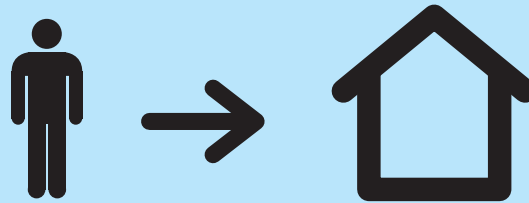
Information in the media

E-mail mass mailings to registered parties
(www.praha10.cz/regitrace_spolecne)

Benefits

Residents are informed about changes

Eliminates rumours and false information from spreading among people



*This listing is illustrative and can be changed according to specific needs.

[B] Listening

Characteristics/conditions

Feedback from residents about proposals prepared by professionals. Serves to refine and supplement a plan. Can be direct or indirect.

From residents' point of view

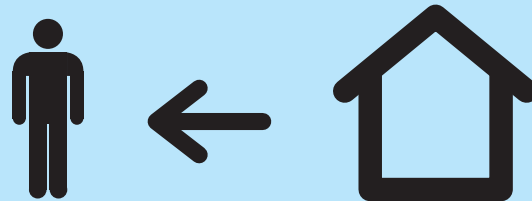
People can comment on the prepared solution. Their opinions are considered seriously.

Possible methods and techniques

Interactive exhibits
Public comment process
Stand-alone Internet site
E-mail submission of comments
Benchmark Internet voting
Telephone information hotline
Internet chat

Benefits

Opportunity to express opinions on the prepared solution
Opportunity to correct identified shortcomings



*This listing is illustrative and can be changed according to specific needs.



[C] Consultation

Characteristics/conditions

Residents participate in the project from the beginning and take part in defining the assignment for professionals, who subsequently propose possible solutions or designs.

From residents' point of view

Timely discussion prevents subsequent misunderstandings and everyone knows from the beginning that something is happening and what outcomes can be expected.

Possible methods and techniques

Community meeting

Public debate

Internet on-line discussion forum

Community walk covering problematic sites

Happening events with interactive elements

Workshops/conferences

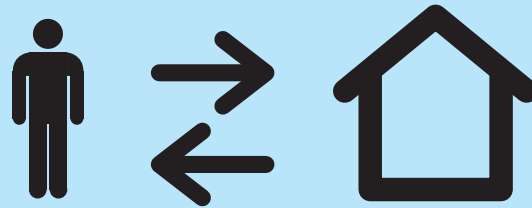
Municipal information board

Benefits

Opportunity to formulate the assignment for a given issue or problem solution

Gathering of interesting and stimulating ideas for the solution

Only those potential solutions supported by all participants are further developed



*This listing is illustrative and can be changed according to specific needs.



[D] Partnership

Characteristics/conditions

Residents' representatives are partners to the town hall and part of the decision making process. They take part directly in formulation of the resultant solution.

From residents' point of view

Citizens have a direct opportunity to help shape public spaces in their surroundings. Their opinions, ideas and comments are completely equal to those of professionals or civil servants.

Possible methods and techniques*

Workshop

Working group

Planning weekend

Advisory committee

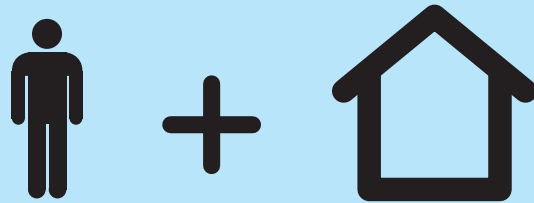
Benefits

Residents and the town hall seek solutions together

Accepted solutions are the result of a broadly accepted compromise

Everyone is aligned with the resultant solution and accepts it as their own; they take part in its implementation

Opportunity to try out the difficulty of decision making and seeking compromises



*This listing is illustrative and can be changed according to specific needs.



CHANGING PRAGUE 10 TOGETHER



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