

FAQs

1. What do you want to achieve with the Britain's Best Walking Neighbourhood award?

The award aims to highlight places across England, Scotland and Wales that have invested in developing great walking environments - where people can enjoy walking easily every day, whether to the shops, to work, to school or simply to take the dog out.

We'll be celebrating neighbourhoods with well-connected networks of walking routes, accessible natural green spaces and well-designed public spaces.

Nominations came in from across Great Britain and now you can choose your favourite from a shortlist of ten.

2. How can I vote for my favourite walking neighbourhood?

Watch the videos about the ten shortlisted neighbourhoods and then vote online at www.ramblers.org.uk/urbanawards

If your neighbourhood isn't on the shortlist, and you think it should be next year, we'd love to receive your nomination. You can download a nomination form from www.ramblers.org.uk/urbanawards Please submit your nomination to campaigns@ramblers.org.uk

3. How can I nominate my neighbourhood for the award?

Nominations are open from now on an ongoing basis until January 2019. If you think your neighbourhood is a winner, please complete the nomination form (link) and return to campaigns@ramblers.org.uk

4. How did you shortlist the neighbourhoods for the award?

We had lots of nominations from all across Great Britain and it was really hard to choose between so many good ones. We were particularly impressed with how many places are putting on local community events in parks and green spaces and coming up with new ideas to get people walking in their neighbourhood.

We used our walking expertise and the information in our urban policy to evaluate to what extent the neighbourhoods met the criteria set out on the nomination form, including demonstrating how easy, safe and pleasant walking routes are, access to local green space and ability to access local amenities on foot. We also looked at supporting information, such as photos, maps and information about local activities that promoted walking or encouraged people to walk in the area. Nominations that were backed by more than one individual/group were rated more highly, as we thought that this showed a greater commitment to developing a walkable neighbourhood.

5. Why are there two London boroughs in the shortlist?

We had lots of nominations from all across Great Britain and it was really hard to choose between so many good ones. We felt that Hackney and Walthamstow met the criteria really well and have both been at the fore-front of developing car free areas and 20 mph zones. We are also very grateful to Travis Elborough and Dan Raven-Ellison for their support for these areas.

6. Why do you care about making towns and cities more walkable?

Imagine if all of Britain's town and cities truly put pedestrians first. If every resident's natural impulse was to walk whenever they left their front door to make a short journey. If you were more connected to the place where you live and the other people who live there. It's a bold vision, but an inspiring one.

That's why we're campaigning to ensure urban areas are better designed for walkers, so that that walking in towns and cities becomes the easy choice, making people more active and better connected. We want cities and towns that are designed to encourage people to go about their everyday lives on foot. For too long, the built environment has been designed without people in mind, resulting in towns and cities that are unsafe, unpleasant and difficult to navigate on foot.

We know that walking is a solution to many of the nation's most pressing challenges, including social isolation, obesity and air pollution, but so far there has been limited progress in improving walking environments. That's why we want to work with local authorities, developers and local people to build walkable neighbourhoods.

7. Why are you asking people to get in touch with their councillor candidates ahead of the local government elections?

Local councillors make a lot of the decisions that affect our neighbourhoods, from approving planning applications, to maintaining streets and protecting parks and urban green spaces. That's why we need your help to show local councillors why improving urban walking spaces is so important. From April, we'll be launching an easy online action to email your councillor candidates to ask them to sign up to our Charter for Walkable Towns and Cities if they are elected. Even if there aren't elections happening in your area, you can still get in touch with your councillor and ask them to sign up to the Charter. Get in touch on campaigns@ramblers.org.uk for tips on how to do this. We'll be releasing the Charter in March 2018.

8. Why are you asking local councillor candidates to sign up to a Charter for Walkable Towns and Cities?

Our Charter sets out a few easy ways in which towns and cities can be made more walkable. For example, we're calling on local authorities to develop a Local Cycling Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), setting out a long-term approach to developing local walking networks. By asking local councillors to sign up to this, together we can hold them to account on the promises they've made. We'll be releasing the Charter in March 2018.