

BREEAM Communities Challenge



Tips from neighbours

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Neighbours & community

01



Why we think
a good community
is important

A top-class project these days goes beyond buildings that happen to be more functional, greener and smarter. It's also important to ensure everything surrounding the project is fit for purpose, serves the broadest possible community and makes sense in the grander scheme of things.

BREEAM Communities

When we create a concept, we always think about the impact or use of the project's various components. The original concept of ecological and sustainable buildings has been expanded to include an active approach to making new or revitalised neighbourhoods like New Nivy places where people live and work better, somewhere they are pleased to call home.

A decent community makes for a decent neighbourhood

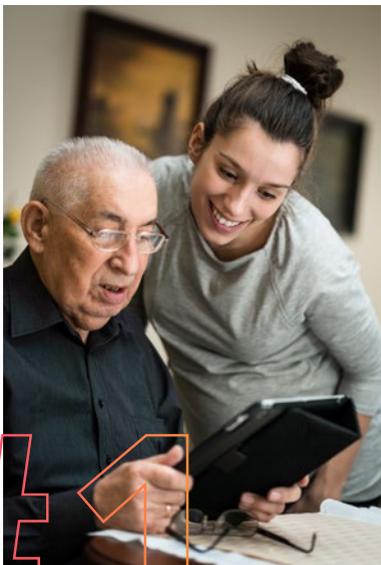
Paying regular attention to neighbours and the community where we tend to spend most of the day is as important as maintaining good relationships and well-being in our own family and with those we love. It's the small things that often go a long way — saying hello, smiling at your neighbour in the morning, having a quick chat if time is short or longer talks when we're not in a hurry, respecting house rules, sorting our waste properly and picking up litter.

Meaningfulness, amenities, accessibility, localness

Everyone — locals, “out-of-towners”, commuters and residents — can be brought together effectively, especially through high-quality public spaces, businesses and services that benefit everyone so that they spend time there and naturally create a community. If people have everything they really need in one place, they will gladly and frequently spend money at local businesses. BREEAM Communities also tackles matters that might seem trivial but are ultimately vital for economically sustainable community life.

How to spot a good community

Community life relies on good neighbourly relations based on effective communication that fosters trust and establishes friendships. A good community is a safe place where there is no theft and street art means proper aesthetic work, not tags graffitied on buildings. Often, the very best indicator of a good community is the dynamic underpinning the relationships between those who “only” work in the neighbourhood and those who live there. The better the relationships along this axis work, the stronger the community is, and everyone feels good about it. Be inspired by ideas about how to take simple steps that can enhance neighbourhood relations and make everyday community life more pleasant!



Forge links between generations

Form connections between schoolchildren and older neighbours. Teach them to show respect and help their elders. They can help with the shopping as well as with walking the dog and taking out the rubbish on a regular basis. Many simple activities can often be physically demanding for seniors. Children build a sense of responsibility and seniors get respite from tasks they find difficult.

— Mária



Replace the bulb at the entrance of your building

Don't wait for the little things in your neighbourhood to fix themselves. Don't regard public and communal spaces as if they don't belong to you or anyone else. Treat them as though they were your own.

— Jano Brtáň



Trust and help each other

It's good to get along with your neighbours. For example, they can water your flowers while you are on holiday or you can feed their cat when they are away.

— Lea

Share seasonal fruit and vegetables with neighbours

If you have a lot of seasonal fruit or vegetables, whether from your parents or your garden, share them with your neighbours. This is a nice gesture that your neighbours are sure to appreciate.

— Simona J.



Donate things you no longer need

Everyone has a ton of stuff at home that they don't need that could help others. Consider creating a website for neighbours so they can browse the items you don't need.

— Matúš



#5



Organise large clean-ups and rubbish amnesties

Organise a clean-up of public and communal areas four times a year and hire a skip for the event. Anyone who has rubbish from home improvements stored in the basement or other shared spaces can then throw it away in the right container.

— Martina L.

#6

Organise joint events to strengthen the community

By organising neighbourhood events such as barbecues, you will strengthen your community and create opportunities to discuss common issues.

— HB Reavis



#7

Work together to take care of your surroundings

Many people with busy households and children throw a lot of organic waste into containers intended for normal rubbish. It would be great if each section of a block of flats had a container for organic waste or a composter which could then be used, for example, to fertilise flowers in the gardens.

— Andrej



#8



Take the rubbish out for older neighbours

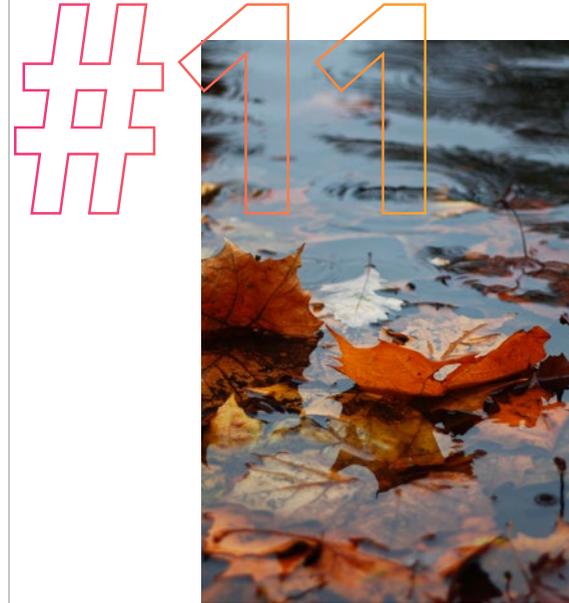
When you put your rubbish into the container, knock on your neighbours' doors and ask if they also have anything to throw away.

— Tereza

Organise a neighbourhood sale and exchange

Organise a neighbourhood sale and exchange where neighbours can buy, sell or exchange items they don't need or use. Neighbours with handy skills can offer their services and those who like to bake can offer their homemade cakes.

— Slávka Sakacová



Propose the construction of rainwater collectors

Rainwater collectors would be a great idea. They could be used to water flowers or community gardens.

— Palo Makyš

Look after the neighbours' children

If you have neighbours with children the same age as yours in your block of flats, get in contact with each other. You and your neighbours can take turns looking after the children a few times a week. The kids will have fun and you can take a breather from them and spend some time just with your partner.

— Renáta F.



Pass on the stuff you don't need

If you have some things you no longer use, think about setting up a space in the entrance hall of your block of flats where you could put them to one side. You put the stuff you don't need there, and you may find something useful that someone else no longer needs.

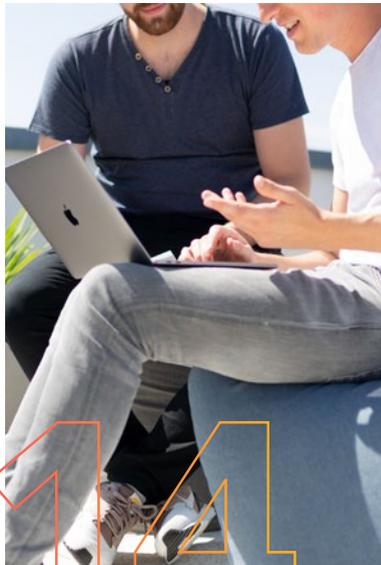
— Patrícia



Communicate with each other — including online

You don't always have the opportunity to meet up with your neighbours in person and talk about things that need to be discussed. It's therefore a good idea to set up a private group on Facebook to deal with all the issues in your block that need to be organised. In this way, neighbours are always kept up to date, even if they've been unable to attend association meetings.

— Jakub



Share parking spaces with neighbours

If you are leaving the city for a while and taking your car with you, let your neighbours know they can use your parking space.

— Ladislav Moravský



Sustainability & the Environment **02**



Why are we eager for New Nivy to be fresh and green?

Sustainable development is a natural and rational effort to maintain a balance between nature and its resources. What was considered an optional upgrade not so long ago is a social standard today.

Three dimensions of sustainability

The BREEAM Communities environmental dimension guides activities in the New Nivy zone with a goal of identifying and protecting natural ecosystems in the area and contributing to environmental improvements, including maintaining quality greenery. In turn, the economic dimension of sustainability seeks to optimise the relationship between sustainability and profit so that projects generate a return while reducing their environmental footprint. Then there is the social dimension which is based on the assumption that everyone — residents, visitors and tenants — should be able to enjoy the sustainable benefits of well-configured quality and comfort in their lives.

Recycle, upcycle, save resources

The way we are building New Nivy will save resources, cut down on rubbish and facilitate consistent waste separation by establishing ample, readily accessible collection points. However, there's only so far we can go — buying products that are free of unnecessary packaging, ditching disposable bags and disposing of waste in the right bin will remain a matter of personal responsibility. Sorting and recycling go hand in hand. Our projects routinely use environmentally friendly and recycled materials, including glass, iron, aluminium and concrete. This lessens the carbon footprint of buildings and significantly reduces harmful and unnecessary emissions.

A pleasant climate = a pleasant life

It's great that people are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of public greenery. Besides purifying the air and pleasing the eye, it also plays a pivotal role in naturally cooling our surroundings and suppressing the heat island effect. In addition to engaging in thorough site decontamination, we have teamed up with experts to help restore local health, greenery and public spaces that people find enjoyable. We will continue to analyse and evaluate the environmental quality and the impact of greenery.

Public greenery and urban fauna and flora

Well thought-out green zones incorporating landscaped ripples and recesses are the best response to the increasingly torrential rains that are set to bear down on our city as climate change makes itself felt. Rainwater, once captured, can be used for irrigation in drier periods. Nature does not need to be squeezed out of cities. On the contrary, we must respect and work with it as much as possible.

New Nivy — a sustainable zone

Sustainability is not only a commitment to the environment, but also to local people and the city itself. But it is also a commitment we make to ourselves, so be inspired by ideas rooted in ecology, sustainability and the green economy!



Don't buy so much stuff

Try to be happy with fewer things. More than half of the items we buy end up hardly being used, if at all, but manufacturing them always takes a certain amount of energy and water and adds to air pollution. Because we are fixated on consumption, we generate extreme waste, even from things that have yet to reach the rubbish heap.

— Lucia

Share your food

It would be great if we could put a fridge in the building where we live and leave food we can't finish there so our neighbours can use it instead. Similarly, we could barter — some people grow a lot of apples, others grow nuts. This would be a way for neighbours to exchange food.

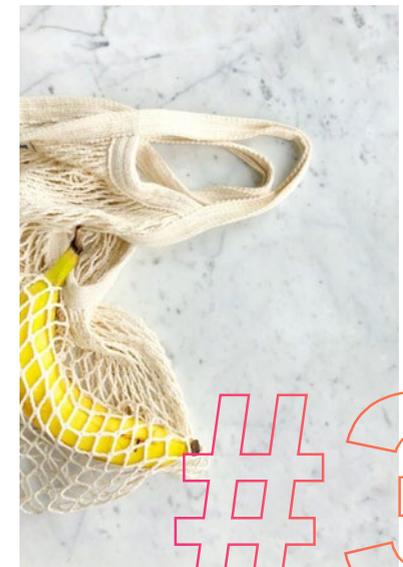
— Michal



Behave environmentally, even at work

Stop buying those plastic milk pods for coffee. Instead of using plastic bottles of water at work, install a large water dispenser. Waste is not only generated at home, but also at work. We tend to overlook this, but we just need to make a few changes.

— Martin Kopečný



Shop locally

Shop locally at places such as farmers' markets! Buying domestic food that has been grown in an environmentally friendly way not only benefits the local economy, but also contributes to a healthier environment.

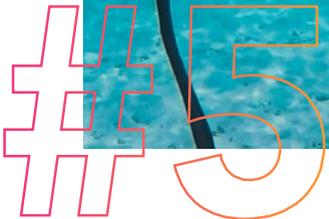
— HB Reavis



Do away with unnecessary plastic

Try asking for a drink without a straw or carrying your own glass bottle around with you to reduce the use of plastic cups.

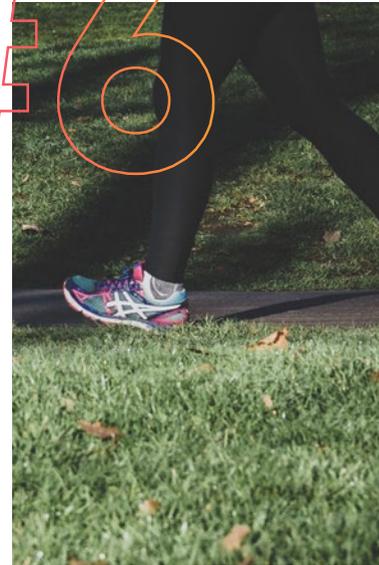
— Andrea



Walk

Leave the car at home and walk to the centre. It only takes a few minutes, and you'll be clocking up some of those recommended 10,000 daily steps.

— Anna

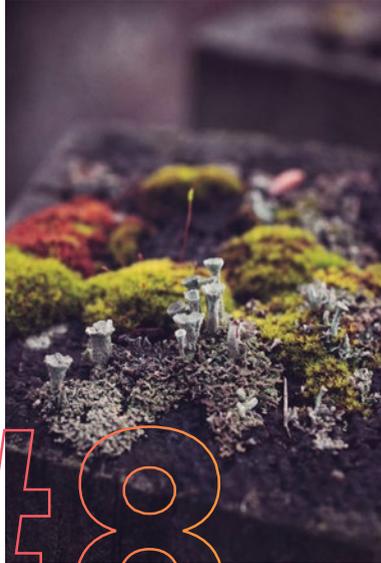


Wash the dishes in a dishwasher

Washing the dishes by hand uses much more water than if you put them in a dishwasher. An ordinary dishwasher uses less water — saving time and resources!

— Martin S.





Propose community composters

Compost containers could be installed at suitable points throughout the New Nivy area. Workshops could be organised to teach people how to use them properly.

— Zuzana Z.

#8

Plant foliage

Plant trees or greenery in your surroundings — their roots strengthen the soil and the foliage produces the oxygen we need through photosynthesis. Look after your surroundings — a nice, well-tended garden will cheer up any neighbour. Volunteering in teams is also beneficial as you will get to know people in your area.

— Katka



#9

#10



Carry your own shopping bag

Always carry your own shopping bag or backpack with you and reduce the use of polythene bags. These bags really aren't necessary for all the different fruits that have inedible skin. If you hadn't planned to go shopping and don't have a bag with you, buy only the essentials and carry them in your hands.

— Michal Michalčík

Sweep up fallen needles and leaves

Sweep up needles and leaves that have fallen or been blown in front of your garage from nearby trees. This will stop them from getting in and clogging up drains.

— Marek Margoč



#11

Set up a “library of things”

Set up a community “library of things” where everyone can borrow a variety of useful items such as a hammer, a tent or even a bread maker. These are things that we don’t usually need to own because we only use them once or twice a year. Locals can contribute to the library and investors can also support it.

— Zuzana Z.



Find a plastic-free shopping container in the shop

Some people find cardboard boxes to use instead of a shopping cart, and these can also take the place of a plastic bag. Just make your way around the shop until you find the size and shape you need!

— Otto



Give food to people in need

Are you going away on holiday or for a weekend and won’t be able to finish the food in your fridge? Give it to people in need. In addition to avoiding unnecessary waste, you’ll be helping those who need it.

— HB Reavis

Organise community clean-ups

Make arrangements with your neighbours to do voluntary clean-ups to pick up rubbish and litter in the neighbourhood to make the place you live look nicer.

— Pauli



Social Responsibility

03



Living well, now and tomorrow, requires responsibility

Social responsibility is a concept that may sound rather abstract to many people when they hear it for the first time. But when we break it down into its components, we can see that it encompasses specific aspects and activities.

Responsibility yields long-term quality

Introducing more bits and pieces of civic amenities does not, in itself, result in better civic amenities. Nor does it necessarily mean more space for us to enjoy ourselves and relax in if nobody takes regular and decent care of it. That is where social responsibility comes in. This is a system of work where we think four and act two steps ahead, always thinking about the full picture. People tend to feel good and at home in places aligned with their needs, comfort and wishes.

Communication is the kernel of responsibility

Social responsibility is about taking a different perspective and incorporating it into our thinking. It is also about good neighbourly communication and genuine, regular dialogue between residents and local authorities.

In New Nivy, we are actively creating space where we can meet and communicate with our neighbours and the general public, both personally and online. We welcome any feedback and will genuinely think about it and respond to it.

Responsibility does not distinguish between today and tomorrow

Social responsibility motivates us to not only look at the world through the eyes of the present, but also the future quality of our lives. In other words, through the eyes of others, whether they're seniors or strangers. It also motivates and inspires us to look at our neighbourhood and community from the perspective of those who face disadvantages or limitations in their lives. In this respect, social responsibility is about active tolerance.

A good community = a responsible community

A good neighbourhood is a place where people not only enjoy living and working, it's also a place where they look forward to raising their children, where they are not afraid to grow old, a place they would be sad to leave. Responsibility, like decency, becomes more powerful the longer we spend on it, especially if we foster it together.

Read our tips on how to be more responsible to yourself and your neighbourhood.

Create a community portal

Create a sharepoint to share things you don't use every day. These might include bicycles, scooters or work tools. You and your neighbours will be able to save a little money!

— Vladko



Plant trees and hang bird boxes

Install bird boxes in your area or plant a tree next to an old bench to provide refreshing shade.

— Marek Blecha



Recycle organic household waste

Add household vegetable organic waste bins for the community. This large amount of waste is not easy to recycle.

— Kristina



Don't underestimate neighbourhood relations

It doesn't take much effort to be pleasant to one another. Smile, greet each other and, most of all, respect each other.

— Erika





Think of the handicapped

When renovating a block of flats or a company headquarters, think about barrier-free access to the building.

— Peter K.

#5

Lend or exchange baby clothes

Don't buy new baby clothes as children will grow out of them in a few months. Lend or exchange clothes with neighbours to consolidate relationships and guide children to be greener.

— Thang Pham



#6



Teach others

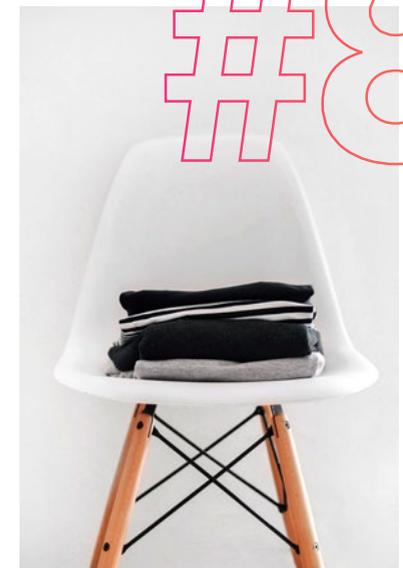
If you are good at something, share your experience or expertise with your neighbours.

— Tomáš Lobotka

Donate things you no longer need

You can donate clothes, toys, bicycles or even old computers that you no longer use or need to a local non-profit organisation, nursery or retirement home.

— Zuzka

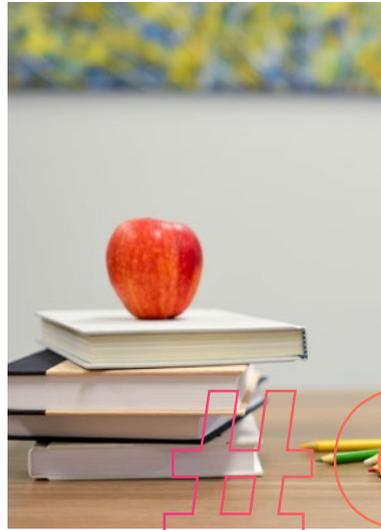


#8

Help schools

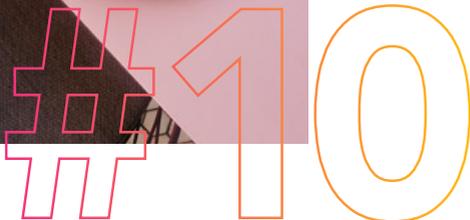
For example, help paint a fence or a classroom at a local school, contribute new equipment or help a school association.

— Hanka



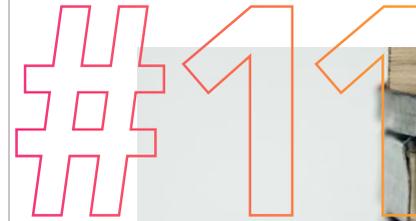
Take your grandparents out for a coffee

— Valentína Kasperová



Create a community library to give a second chance to books that have been left to collect dust on your shelf

— HB Reavis



Surprise the people around you

Draw up a list of small, randomly assigned tasks that will please your family or neighbours. Gifting a flower or a piece of freshly baked cake is not hard work but will make someone happy.

— Libko





Join Let's Do It Slovakia

Join the Let's Do It Slovakia initiative or organise your own group. If you're not totally sure about it yet, you can simply put on some gloves, pick up a bag and collect litter around your house or nearby. All you need is determination. This will also inspire other people in the area, and they may even join you next time. It's also a great activity for children.

— Eva

Become a micro-activist

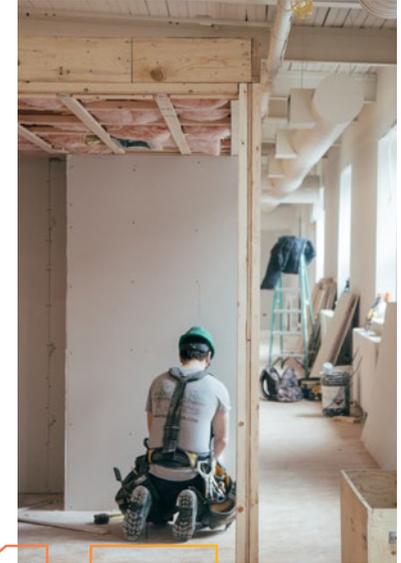
— Michal Pastier



Respect statutory building regulations

If you are doing work on your flat, whether inside or on the balcony, think of your neighbours. Consider whether you'll be obstructing or endangering others because of your construction work. For example, you need to be careful not to block emergency exits.

— Ernest



#15

Transport & Infrastructure

04

Transport is about nurturing people, not just new infrastructure.



There is a specific place in our lives for transport and infrastructure. When we're happy and everything's working, we hardly notice it. And that's how it should be.

Infrastructure functions smoothly only in context and as a whole

The importance of infrastructure lies not just in the implementation of quality solutions but also — and more significantly — in its sound maintenance, continuous development and how it is embedded in a broader context. Ensuring that everything consistently works to the benefit of everyone, whether they are locals or merely passing through, is therefore a major challenge. Good modern infrastructure goes beyond roads. It also embraces sustainable water management and rapid access to the internet, electricity and gas. However, meaningful solutions can take a while to find, with high-quality infrastructure relying primarily on endlessly tuning the details and the input of dozens of stakeholders.

Cars — to drive or not to drive? No longer a common dilemma

In Western countries, people are slowly but surely accepting the idea that car ownership is not essential. Rather than constantly “hunting down” a place to park, modern people prefer to enjoy a morning coffee in a café near work after making their way there by alternative transport. These changes have been brought about by better public transport, denser networks of bicycle paths and public services such as bike-sharing schemes. This has also been the

inspiration for the New Nivy zone, which offers its visitors hi.bike at Twin City and CBC, with other new buildings to sign up in the future.

New Nivy — setting the standard for transport and infrastructure

When we plan and do infrastructure works in New Nivy, we strongly focus on the fact that this neighbourhood will renew a vital part of our capital. Every detail therefore matters.

We realise that satisfaction with local transport and infrastructure and its smooth daily running is a personal matter. With this in mind, we also welcome your feedback. Read the helpful tips we have received from you on how to deal with traffic issues and how you think modern infrastructure should work.

Public transport is the most efficient, environmentally friendly and economical way of getting around and the best solution a city can have.

Ronald Lupták

marketing director and tram driver at Heineken Slovakia



Set an example for children

Habits are formed in childhood. For example, leave your car at home and teach your kids to travel to school on a safe public transport route, by bike or on foot.

— Majka

Trams — all the way!

I don't think we need a metro in Bratislava. Instead, imagine a city connected by stylishly beautiful red retro trams. We could use this as a basis for tourist marketing — let's go to that great tram city! Like San Francisco. I think our trams could make us unique, as if they've been here forever. This could also be a way of building on our history.

— Peťa



Seasonal transport

Only buy a half-year tram pass. Once it gets nice and warm, just use your bike or walk.

— Roman



Arrange to share rides to work with your neighbours

Many neighbours either work near each other or even for the same company, but they all drive their own car to work separately. Make an agreement to go to work together.

— Erika

Electric scooters with GPS

Electric scooters with GPS are all the rage. There are no collection points — when you reach your destination, drop the scooter's kickstand and walk on.

— Ondrej



Alternative car sharing

When you're travelling into Bratislava from the outskirts, you can offer people at bus stops a lift. Buses sometimes run late and people would be happy if they could be taken at least to a tram stop nearer to the city centre.

— Hanka



Swap your car for public transport and use your time more efficiently

Keep your car in your garage and only use it when you really need to — perhaps for trips outside Bratislava. Buy a tram pass and travel with ease and in comfort every day. Take the Nové Mesto — Lamač line, for example. In those 25 minutes, you can read the news or listen to a podcast before it's time to get off. You won't get stuck in traffic and you won't have to look for a place to park.

— Monika

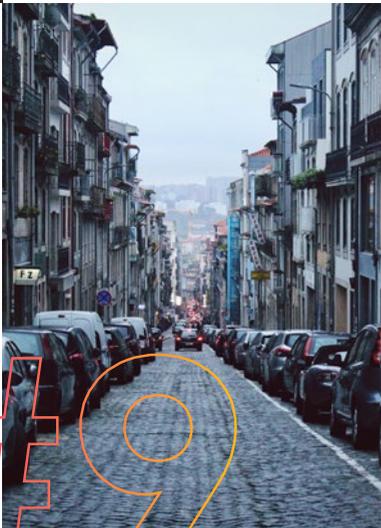


Respect traffic regulations

Follow the rules, respect other drivers and drive safely.

— Ronald Lupták





Short-term parking

It would be a good idea to create more places with barrier-controlled short-term parking possibilities at stations, as this would let people give their friends and relatives a lift in and see them off. Like the airport drop-off points — 20 minutes free of charge and then EUR 5 per hour.

— Gabika

Make transport more efficient

Each radial road should have a single service with several transfer points in the centre. This would make the intervals more efficient and different services on the same route would not hold each other up.

— Braño



Public transport tickets on your mobile

Instead of traditional paper tickets for public transport, use electronic ones. They are cheaper and more environmentally friendly.

— Nina



Respect traffic signs

If you are not meant to park somewhere, just don't park there. This would be a big help to pedestrians and parents with strollers or prams.

— Ervin

Pop-up traffic playground

Create a pop-up playground where children can learn the rules of the road and have fun on bikes and scooters.

— Erika



No barriers

Barrier-free access is not just for wheelchair users, but also for the elderly, parents with strollers, etc. Let's take a look at the world around us through their eyes and help remove unnecessary obstacles.

— Peter



Direct link from the bus station to the airport

It would be good to introduce a direct link between the main bus station and the airport. Bratislava seems to be the only capital in the world that doesn't have this.

— Angela

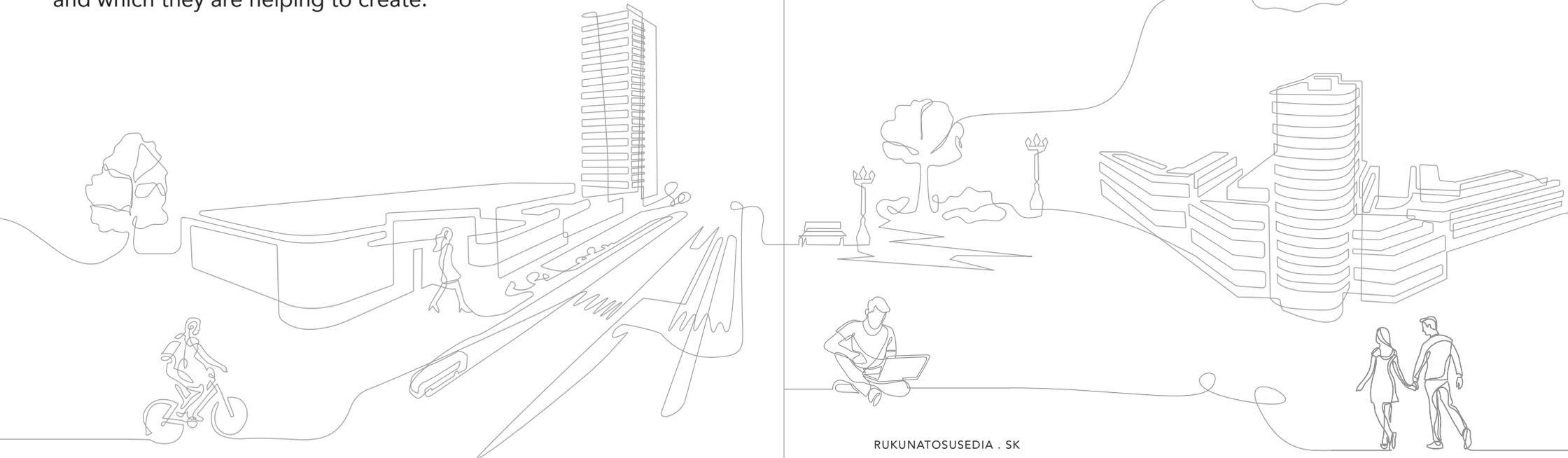


What are BREEAM COMMUNITIES? Why do we do what we do?

BREEAM is a system for the comprehensive assessment of buildings, especially in relation to the environment. It focuses on larger projects and their broader impact on the areas where they are being developed and which they are helping to create.

This certification system is based on various assessment categories that not only encompass environmental aspects, but also, for example, social and economic benefits for certain areas of a city. For us at HB Reavis, BREEAM Communities certification is important since the New Nivy district is the first in the world to enter the assessment process under the new rules. We are designing this district and new projects so that their functions complement each other and thereby create a place that is not only suitable for work, but also — and most impor-

tantly—for a decent quality of life. We collect tips that do not require much money or energy and rely on goodwill among neighbours. Big changes usually start with little things. Let's not simply ask what our city can do for us. Instead, let's get together and do something ourselves today. Let's agree on it, neighbours! At HB Reavis, we explore "quality of life" from all angles, just like the system we are using to build New Nivy — BREEAM Communities.



BREEAM COMMUNITIES

Nové Nivy

by hbreavis