

Being An Active Citizen ...

Active citizens are people who care about their local communities and the places they live. They want to make a positive difference or make something happen by having their say. Active citizens, by taking part, can help decide and influence a range of things, including how things are run and what gets funded and built.

How Do I Do This ...

You can start small by helping out your neighbour or a local community group.

You can put pressure on the council or Government by taking part in direct action. Petitions are a way to voice your concern and gather support.

You can assist or provide advice to a public service or charity, or become a citizen governor and take part in decision making that affects your local school, court or council.

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An Interest Group is...

usually a **voluntary organization** whose members have a **common cause** for which they seek to **influence public policy**, without seeking **political control**.

This can have a negative effect on a democratic system, because if interest groups are very persuasive, then some people may lobby with the interest group regardless of personal belief.

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Some Examples of Interest Groups Are ...

Anti-smoking Campaigns <http://www.anti-smoking.org/>

<http://10steps.sg/inspirations/artworks/50-most-creative-anti-smoking-advertisements/>

Canadian Cancer Society

<http://www.cancer.ca/en/?region=on>

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