Go through all the ideas that your community suggested and choose the one your team thinks best solves the problem and is the most

achievable.

Download the toolkit

How to choose the best idea

You know what your **community needs**. And they've told you what **they want**. But which solution is best?

To find out, do a SWOT analysis. Look at each idea and think of its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

1. Organise a **group meeting**

2. Draw a grid with four columns

3. In each row, list a solution, its benefits and drawbacks

4. In the last column, write a summary: include the costs and building works

This will help you to see which idea is realistic.

Try our template

- [SWOT analysis template](#) (360.14 KB)

If you suddenly realise that you haven't yet found the best solution, don't worry. None of your efforts have been wasted. Just keep looking!

> "Don't settle on obvious solutions – there might be better ones."
>
> *Crossing the Threshold*

Explain your choice

Once you've chosen the solution your team thinks is best, ask the group:

- Why is it the best solution for this problem?

- Why are we the **best group** to do this project?

- What would happen if the project didn't go ahead?

- Have we looked at all the options?

- Is the project **sustainable**?

Be specific with your answers. This will help you later on when you are **applying for grants**.

Is your project feasible?

If your project is medium to large, then you might need to ask your architect to do a formal **feasibility study**.

A feasibility study is based on extensive research. It looks at your project's potential and tells you:

- If your idea is possible or not

- How your project will do what it set out to do

- Facts and numbers to help you make decisions

- Other ways of putting your idea into practice

You might be able to find a grant to pay for the **study** or maybe the local authority would help.

Show the finished report to the whole project group, the PCC and the local community for **comments**.

Find out more about feasibility studies

Case studies

- Case study: St Leonards Yarpole (130.48 KB)

Next steps

To make your vision become a reality you need to start thinking about:

- Is your project **sustainable**?

- Make sure you keep people **informed**

- **Planning** the project

- Appointing an **architect**

- Putting together a **design team**

- Write a **business plan**

Want more help?

Get advice about making changes to your building

xtensions and repairs

Creative uses for your building

one to support their community

How to make your building sustainable

ampaign

Grants for feasibility studies

Apply for a National Churches Trust's grant