

# Table top Mapping/ Google Mapping

Mapping can be a table top exercise and a computer based exercise, if you have the resources there's no reason it can't be both – they both have advantages and disadvantages.

It's really helpful if you can get hold of a large map of your area. If you have plenty of people taking part then you don't want them all crowding round an A4 sheet of paper, also the bigger the map the more information you can fit onto it, foam mounted maps are good because you can stick map pins into them. If you have representatives attending from your local authority then they will likely have access to maps such as these.

Google mapping is an incredibly popular method of mapping virtually anything is it free and extremely versatile. While table top mapping is useful for the initial exercise, Google mapping is a great way of demonstrating your findings and tracking any changes that you can bring about.



## Through Google Maps you can...

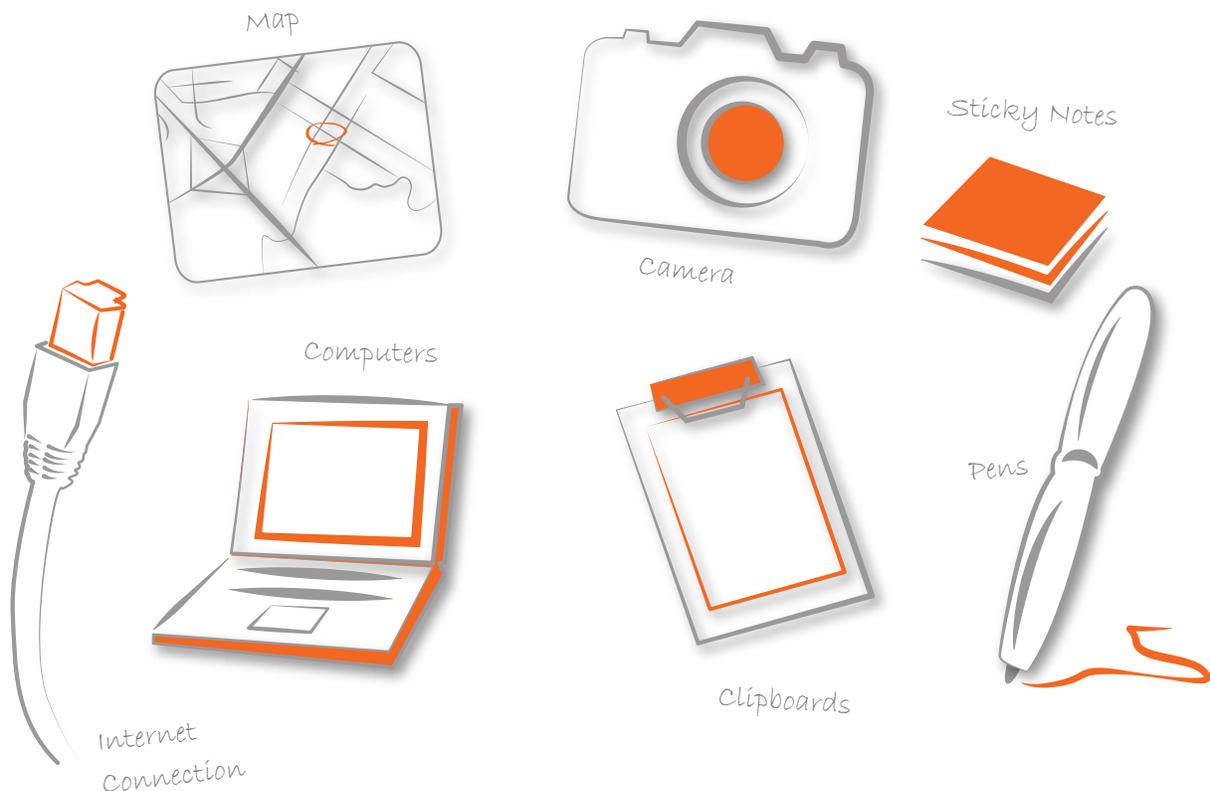
- Place markers with a variety of icons. When clicking upon each marker, the user will be presented with a pop-up bubble containing text and any other content you should wish to add.
- Use lines and shapes to mark out specific areas such as ward boundaries or sites marked for development.
- Insert links to relevant web content such as the websites of organisations you are mapping or news articles about specific markers (e.g a local newspaper writes a web article about your local park, you can insert a link to this article in your pop-up bubble).
- You can also embed photos or videos into the pop-up bubbles so they can be viewed instantly without having to follow a link.

### **DID YOU KNOW?...**

For more instruction on the use of Google Maps, search "google mymaps tutorial" to find useful and practical content.

# Your Mapping Toolbox

In order to map effectively, you will need the right tools. here is a checklist for you.



perhaps you don't have access to all of these items? If you get enough people involved in your mapping exercise then you should be able to pool these items together amongst yourselves, especially if your local council or housing association is involved.