

# Running an Engaging AGM as a Community Group

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For information on running the 'business' element of an AGM, check out this [guide by the Resource Centre](#).

An Annual General Meeting (AGM) doesn't have to be a dull, formal event. With a bit of creativity and planning, you can make your AGM something that people enjoy attending.

## Here are some top tips to make your AGM fun and engaging:

- 1. Mix Formality with Fun:** Combine essential business matters with informal activities. Start with a fun icebreaker or a short social event before getting into the formal reports and voting.
- 2. Use Interactive Voting:** Instead of just asking for a show of hands, use interactive methods like anonymous voting apps or ballot boxes.
- 3. Make it Visual:** Incorporate visuals like photos, slideshows, or videos that highlight key achievements and milestones.
- 4. Showcase Achievements:** Celebrate the group's successes from the past year with personal stories from members or a quick recap of key events.
- 5. Have a Clear, Simple Agenda:** Keep the meeting flowing by sticking to a well-structured agenda that is shared in advance with attendees. Stick to the allotted time for each item.
- 6. Include Time for Socialising:** People enjoy AGMs more when they're not just about reports and elections. Include time for socializing before or after the meeting, or break the agenda into segments with breaks.
- 7. Add some atmosphere:** Put up decorations like string lights, bunting, plants or seasonal greenery, photos of activities from the past year.
- 8. Incorporate Games:** Turn certain sections of the meeting into a game or quiz. For example, you could have a quick trivia game about your group's history.

- 9. Breakout Discussions:** Use breakout groups to engage members in discussing important topics. This gets everyone involved and adds variety to the meeting format.
- 10. Bring a polaroid camera:** Pass around a polaroid camera that prints out photos instantly. Attendees can take photos throughout the night and pin them up on a photo board.
- 11. Involve Different Voices:** Invite different members to present on various sections of the agenda to keep the content dynamic.
- 12. Use Humour:** Lighten the mood with a few jokes or funny anecdotes from the past year.
- 13. Make it Themed:** Choose a fun theme for the event that relates to your group's mission. Encourage members to dress accordingly.
- 14. Offer Refreshments:** Food and drink always make events more appealing!
- 15. Interactive Stations:** Set up stations that members can visit during the AGM. These could be for: sharing feedback, sharing ideas for future projects, a volunteer role sign-up station, a polling station for voting on project ideas, sharing testimonials about what the group means for them in note form (or on camera!).
- 16. Share Testimonials:** Share personal stories from members about how the group has impacted their lives.
- 17. Gamify Parts of the Meeting:** Use elements of gamification, like spin-the-wheel voting or random draws, for lighter items.
- 18. Encourage Member-Led Ideas:** Open up a session for members to discuss future activities or projects.
- 19. End on a High Note:** Finish with a motivational speech, group photo, or something uplifting to leave attendees feeling energized for the year ahead.



*CAG AGMs at the Old Fire Station. Nice setting, food, drink, plenty of chance to socialise and network and interesting speakers make the event appealing and interesting.*