**Practical Participation offer training & consultancy in using social media tools and strategies in participation projects.** This series of Getting Started guides are designed to offer a flavour of the tools available.

**Practical Participation**
www.practicalparticipation.co.uk
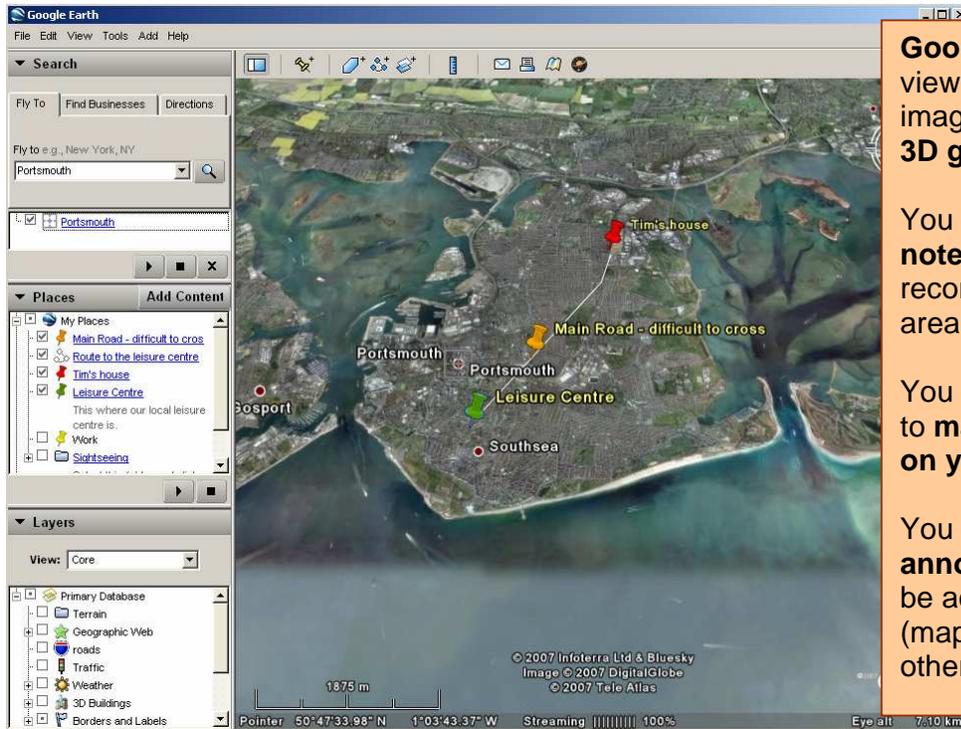tim@practicalparticipation.co.uk

Version 0.1 – December 2007

# Mapping your community

## With Google Earth

**Google Earth** allows you to view high resolution satellite images of your local area on a **3D globe**.
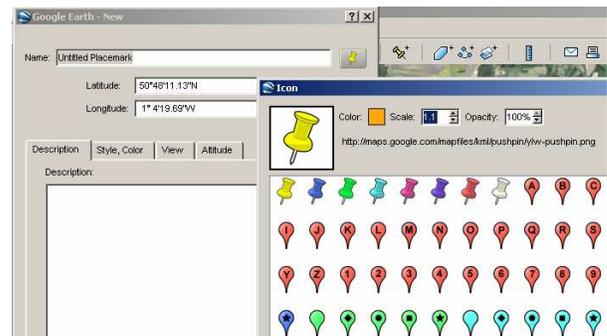
You can **add annotations and notes** onto Google earth to record information about your area.

You can add lines and shapes to **mark out particular areas on your map**.

You can **share your annotations** so that they can be accessed on **Google Maps** (maps.google.co.uk) or in other mapping tools.

## Getting Started

1) If you do not already have a copy of Google Earth you will need to download it from http://earth.google.com.

2) Open Google Earth and use the 'fly to' option to search for and **zoom in to your local area**.

3) You can change the **zoom**, **rotation** and **viewing angle** using the controls that appear in the top-right of the screen.

4) In the places window in the side-bar 'right-click' on 'My Places' and select 'New Folder' to **create a folder to keep your annotations in**.

5) 'Right-click' on the folder you have just created and select 'Add -> Placemark' to **add a note/annotation to the map**. You can give your placemark a title and a description, and clicking the drawing pin icon lets you select a new image.

6) You can also add a 'Path' or 'Polygon'.

## Sharing your map

You can save your map as a KML file for other users of Google Earth by selecting 'Save As...' when you right-click on the folder you created.

You can also share your maps using the 'Share/Post' option from the File Menu.