## New to twitter?

Twitter is an online news and social networking site where people communicate in short messages called tweets. ‘Tweeting’ is sending short messages to anyone who follows you on Twitter. Anything you post on Twitter is called a ‘tweet’ but there are different types including plain text, images, videos and gifs (animated images).

Twitter have some ‘getting started’ pages available here - <https://help.twitter.com/en/twitter-guide>. You will need to sign up to an account – easy to do!!

### Some hints and tips:

* Your timeline will be filled of tweets from people you follow. Follow people who are of interest to you.
* People who follow you will see your tweets.
* When you see other people’s tweets that you want to engage with you can:
  + Reply to the tweet
  + ‘Retweet’ to share it with your followers. You can also add a comment when you retweet, if you want.
  + ‘Like’ the tweet (similar to facebook likes). This is most commonly used to show you approve or agree with a statement.
  + Directly message the person who made the tweet. Useful if you want to continue a conversation in private (like if you want to share contact emails) but not all ‘tweeter’s allow you to message them in private.
* Hashtags {#} connect all tweets about the same topic. If you click on a hashtag you will see other tweets which contain that hashtag.
* You can ‘tag’ other twitter users in your tweet by using the ‘@’ symbol followed by that persons username (this is called their twitter handle). This is useful to:
  + Alert the tagged user to your tweet (eg. Our department is at ABC today @Colleague1 @Colleague2)
  + Give them publicity (eg. Went to a great event @barXYZ last night)
  + Direct a conversation/question at them (eg. @JoeBlogs what do you think of this article?
* Posts with pictures tend to get better engagement from your followers – a picture says a thousand words.

## Twitter chat basics

### What is a Twitter chat?

A Twitter chat is where a group of Twitter users meet at a pre-determined time to discuss a certain topic, using a designated hashtag for each tweet contributed. **For our tweetchat will be using the hashtag #PPIimpact.**

* A host or moderator will pose questions (designated with Q1, Q2…) to prompt responses from participants (using A1, A2…) and encourage interaction among the group.
* **The host for this chat is the @SouthamptonBRC account.** You will need to follow this account to see the conversation. @SouthamptonBRC is hosting the chat on behalf of the Wessex Public Involvement Network (#WessexPIN). (ie Caroline Barker and Claire Ballinger will be posing the questions and leading the Tweetchat via the BRC account).
* Our tweetchat is **Monday 23rd April at 20:00 (GMT). It will last an hour**.

### Why participate in a Twitter chat?

It’s like an online version of a networking event and a great way to chat with new people with similar interests. We will be using it to have a conversation around the impact of public involvement, and network with others who are passionate about PPI.

Twitter chats provide a chance to network and grow your circle (and knowledge!) through shared interests. It also gives you a chance to join the national conversation about PPI impact.

### How to take part in a tweetchat

You can participate in our Twitter chat simply by entering the hashtag (#PPIimpact) into a twitter search and interacting with people there. If using a desktop you type the hashtag in the ‘Search Twitter’ box (top right). On the Twitter app click the magnifying icon and the ‘Search Twitter’ bar will appear at the top.

**For every tweet you do, including replies to others, you need to include the hashtag #PPIimpact so that others can follow your conversation.**

Twitter chats do move quickly. Don’t worry too much if you get lost or can’t keep up – tweets don’t disappear so you can find them at any time and continue the conversations after the event.

### Using Tweetdeck

If you’re feeling particularly confident, there are many other great tools that help organize and filter tweets into different streams, to help make it easier to follow the conversation.

Tweetdeck is owned by twitter and is a simple way to keep on track with at Twitter chat. You log in to Tweetdeck using the same details as your Twitter log in. You can also tweet directly from Tweetdeck, so it is the only webpage you’ll need to have open!

TweetDeck allows you to have columns displaying specific content that interests you. These columns appear side-by-side. We would suggest that you:

* Add a ‘User’ column to follow @southamptonBRC, the host for our tweetchat
* Add a column to follow the hashtag:
* After you click ‘Add column’ select the Search option
* Type #PPIimpact and click the magnifying icon – this will add a column for the hashtag
* Add a ‘Notifications’ column. This will show your tags, mentions and likes.

Twitter has its own help pages for using Tweetdeck - <https://help.twitter.com/en/using-twitter/how-to-use-tweetdeck>

## 10 quick tips for Twitter chat participants

1. @southamptonBRC will post the questions (designated with Q1, Q2…). Indicate the question you are responding to by using A1, A2…etc
2. Always include the hashtag #PPIimpact in all your responses
3. Don’t be afraid to contribute. We want to hear from as many people as possible – whether you are very experienced or have only just heard of PPI!
4. If you’re answering a specific question or commenting on another’s tweet, use Twitter handles (eg @PersonX I agree with that comment, and think that…)
5. If you start a tweet with a twitter handle (eg @1234) then the tweet will not show up on all feeds. You can add a fullstop ‘.’ To prevent this.
6. It’s okay to not take part in the whole event, just contribute where you want to.
7. Be polite and positive
8. Don’t be afraid to follow up with people after the chat and keep the conversation going. You never know what you’ll learn or who you’ll connect with.
9. Tweetchats can move quickly – don’t worry if you can’t keep up with all the conversations. You can just follow the conversations that are most interesting to you.
10. Enjoy it!