



## Publish local FixMyStreet reports on your website, blog or Facebook page

Do you run a website, a community Facebook page, a blog, or perhaps even a local news site?

Then you might be interested to know that you can publish a feed, showing FixMyStreet reports local to your area, right onto your site or page. It will look something like this:

**LocalGov »**

**Car blocking the whole footpath, 26th July**   
**FixMyStreet: Birmingham 26 Jul**  
Very inconsiderate parking, blocking the footpath.

**Dumped bags & uncollected rubbish, 26th July**   
**FixMyStreet: Birmingham 26 Jul**  
This road needs household waste recycling collected, recycling not collected for 2 months now overflowing onto road path.

**Missed collection, 26th July**   
**FixMyStreet: Birmingham 26 Jul**  
Rubbish not collected and also recycling Nearest road to the pin placed on the map (automatically generated by Bing Maps): 37 Nearhill Road, Kings Norton Report on FixMyStreet...

**Dumped household item, 26th July**   
**FixMyStreet: Birmingham 26 Jul**  
A household item has been left here yet again Nearest road to the pin placed on the map (automatically generated by Bing Maps): 1 Willoughby Grove, Selly Oak Report on FixMyStreet...

**Garden rubbish, 25th July**   
**FixMyStreet: Birmingham 25 Jul**  
Cardboard boxes of garden rubbish and some household rubbish maybe 10 bin bags full altogether Nearest road to the pin placed on the map (automatically generated by Bing Maps): 598 Redhill Road, Kings Norton Report on FixMyStreet...

This example comes from local Birmingham site '[The Brummie](#)'.

All you need to do is add a widget or place a simple piece of code on your site, and whenever someone posts a report on FixMyStreet within your chosen area, it will show up.

You can position the FixMyStreet feed anywhere on your blog or website; many people have it in the sidebar.

## What you'll need

Putting a feed onto your site requires two things: the web address where the data (in this case, FixMyStreet reports) can be found, and a means of pulling this data onto your webpage or site and displaying it nicely.

So first: no matter whether you are planning to publish to facebook, a blog or a website, you will need the URL (the web address) of the FixMyStreet RSS feed.

[RSS](#) is a way of pulling fast-changing data from a site like FixMyStreet, to somewhere else on the web — in this case, your website.

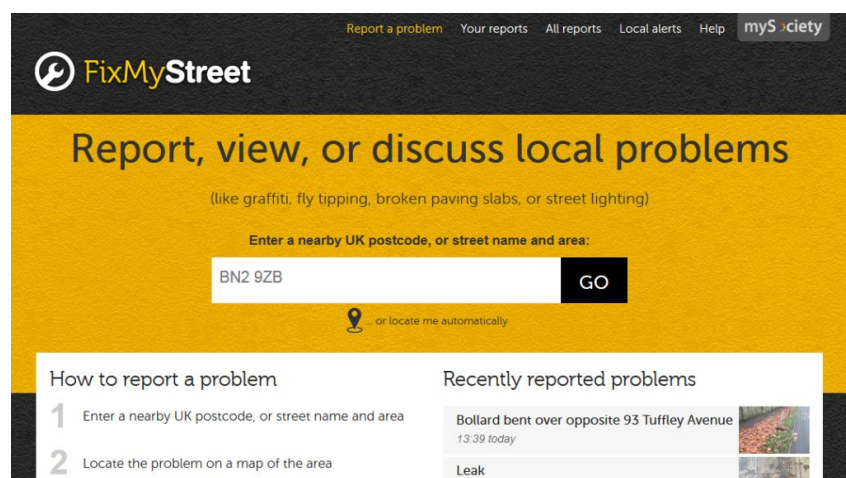
Here's what to do:

### 1. Visit [FixMyStreet.com](#) and locate the area you want a feed for

Does your website, blog or Facebook page deal with a particular city or town, or an area within that town?

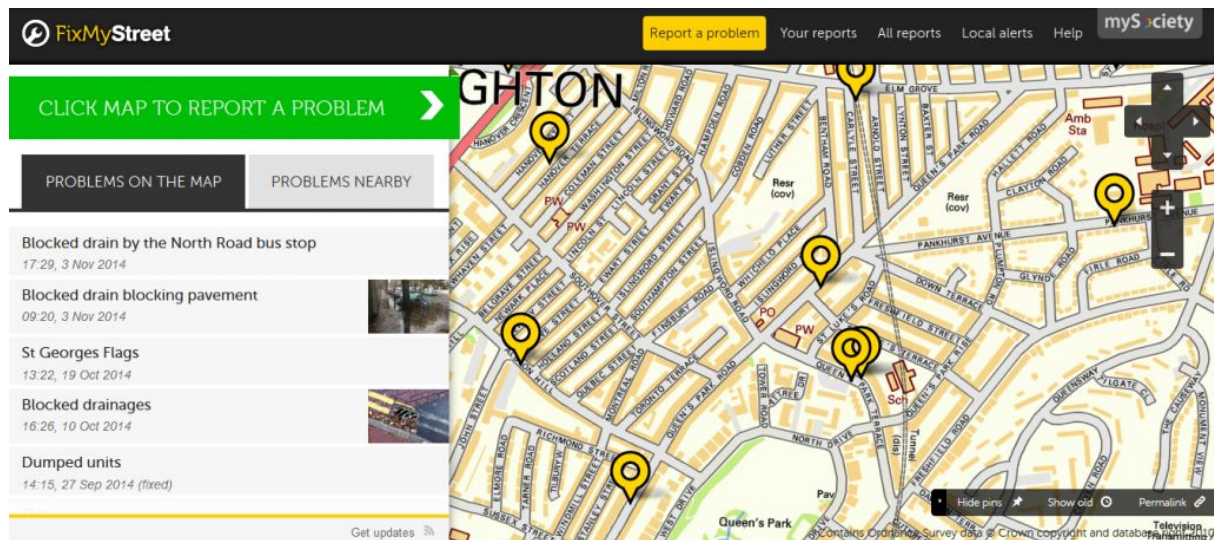
You'll probably want to publish the FixMyStreet reports that are made within that area. The wider the area you choose, the more reports you will be publishing, so think carefully about what your followers will actually want to see, and how often.

Once you've decided, locate that area on FixMyStreet by putting a postcode or place name into the box on the homepage. It doesn't need to be precise; you just need to locate any spot within the area that you want to cover.



The screenshot shows the FixMyStreet homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: "Report a problem", "Your reports", "All reports", "Local alerts", "Help", and a "mySociety" logo. Below this is the FixMyStreet logo. The main heading is "Report, view, or discuss local problems" with a subtext "(like graffiti, fly tipping, broken paving slabs, or street lighting)". A search bar prompts the user to "Enter a nearby UK postcode, or street name and area:" with the example "BN2 9ZB" and a "GO" button. Below the search bar is a location pin icon and the text "or locate me automatically". The page is divided into two columns. The left column is titled "How to report a problem" and lists two steps: "1 Enter a nearby UK postcode, or street name and area" and "2 Locate the problem on a map of the area". The right column is titled "Recently reported problems" and lists two items: "Bollard bent over opposite 93 Tuffley Avenue" with a timestamp "13:39 today" and a small image, and "Leak" with a small image.

You'll be taken to a page showing all recent reports for the surrounding area, which looks like this:



Don't worry if this isn't the exact area that you want your feed to cover, so long as you're at a point within that area – we're going to refine that in the next step.

You can click and drag the map or zoom in and out if you're not quite within the area that you want to be.

## 2. Create your feed

At the very foot of the FixMyStreet page, below the list of reports on the left, you'll see a little icon marked "get updates". Click on this.




You now have the choice of several options. You can get a feed for:

- All problems reported within 2km, 5km, 10km or 20km, or within a population of roughly 200,000 people
- All problems reported to your local council
- All problems reported within the ward of your council

Choose which option most closely matches the area that your website or page deals with, and click the green button marked 'Give me an RSS feed':


Select which type of alert you'd like and click the button for an RSS feed, or enter your email address to subscribe to an email alert.


The simplest alert is our geographic one:

☒ Problems within 6.2km of this location   
(a default distance which covers roughly 200,000 people)

(alternatively the RSS feed can be customised, within [2km](#) / [5km](#) / [10km](#) / [20km](#))

Or you can subscribe to an alert based upon what ward or council you're in:

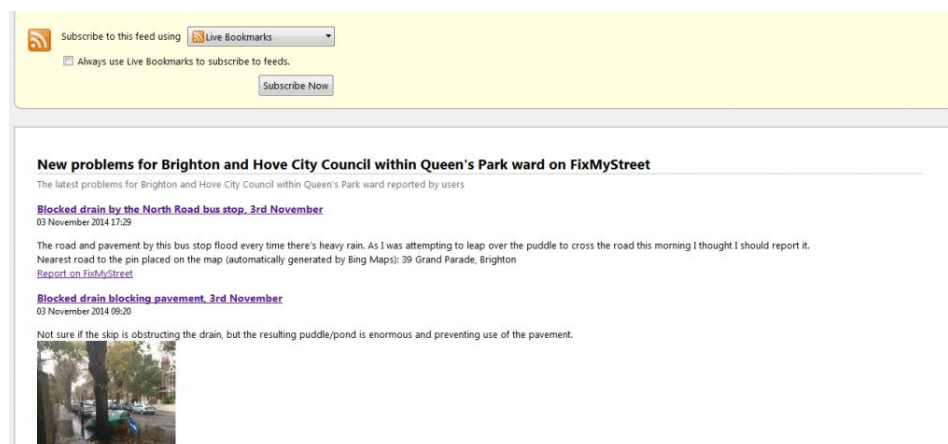
☐ Problems within Brighton and Hove City Council 

☐ Problems within Queen's Park ward 

**GIVE ME AN RSS FEED**

### 3. Grab the URL

Your feed page will look something like this:



It's basically just the data from FixMyStreet, with none of the site's styling or functionality around it. This is what we need your website or Facebook page to get hold of, and publish on your page.

You will need the URL (web address) of this page in a short while – just keep it open while you go through one of the procedures below:



## Blogs and websites

There are various services which will take an RSS feed and put it into a nice readable form for your blog or website.

The one we've found easiest is [Mikle](#).

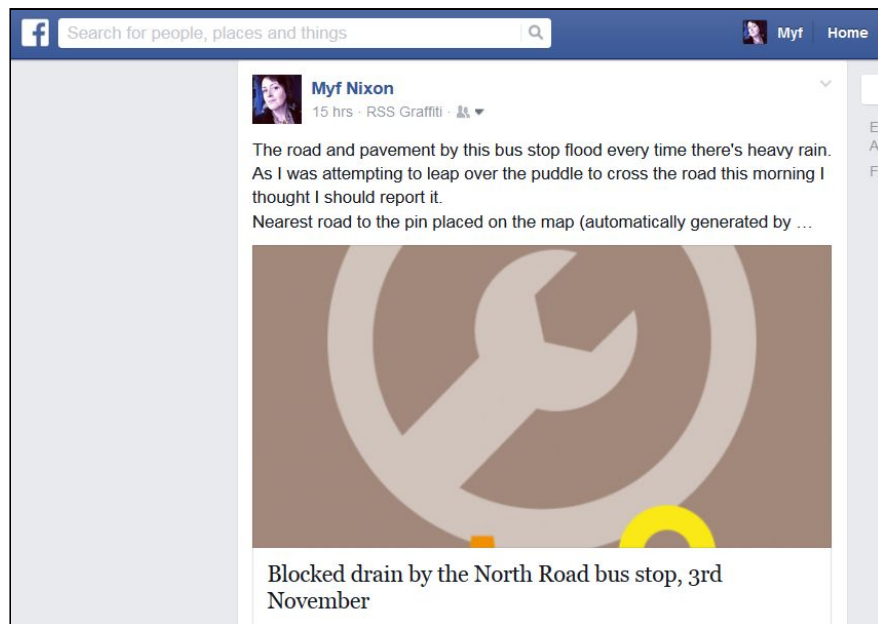
Although you have to create an account to use it, Mikle is free for up to 5 feeds.

All you have to do is:

1. Register with Mikle
2. Click 'create widget'
3. Choose 'RSS feed'
4. Paste in the FixMyStreet URL that you found while doing the steps above
5. Tweak the various style settings, or leave them all as defaults
6. Click the 'save and get code' button
7. Copy and paste the code into your website or blog - probably in an element such as a sidebar.

## Facebook pages

If you run a Facebook page or group for a local community, you might like to add a FixMyStreet feed. This will publish recent reports, made within the geographic area that you define, as posts on your Facebook page, like this:



There are various services which can do this. All of them are free for this level of usage, but require you to make an account. Which one you choose is really just a matter of your own preference:

- Mickle, the service described above, can also give you a Facebook feed (go through the same process, but choose Facebook instead of RSS).
- There's a service named [Zapier](#) which will also publish out a feed onto Facebook
- Or, you can use a service called IFTTT — read on to find out how to use that option.

## 1. Log into Facebook

You don't need to be logged in as the page that you want the feed on; it's fine just to be logged in as yourself, the administrator of that page.

## 2. Connect an RSS action to your Facebook page

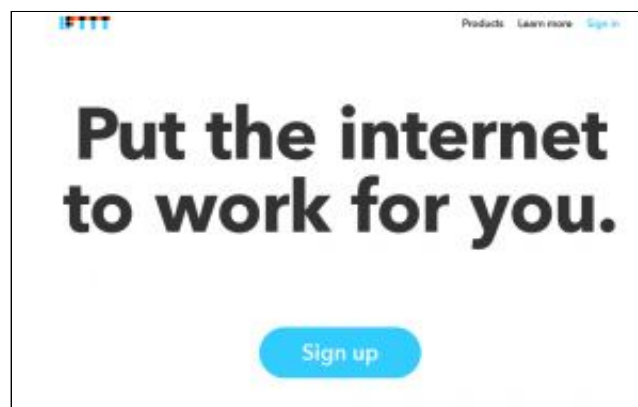
Facebook itself does not provide a way to publish RSS feeds, so we're going to use [IFTTT](#).

IFTTT stands for "If This Then That" and it's a really nifty, free service that basically allows you to say: "Every time [something] happens, do [something else]."

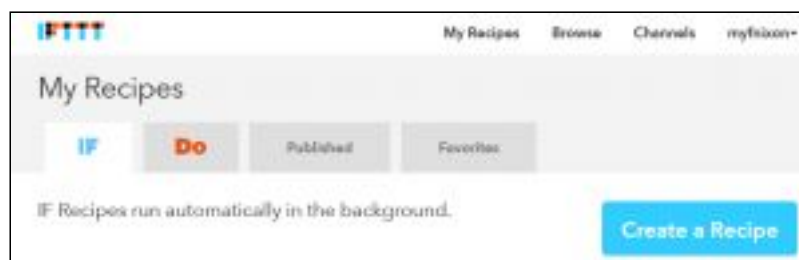
We are going to use it to say "Every time a new post appears in the RSS feed that I specify, publish it to my Facebook page".

Here's what to do.

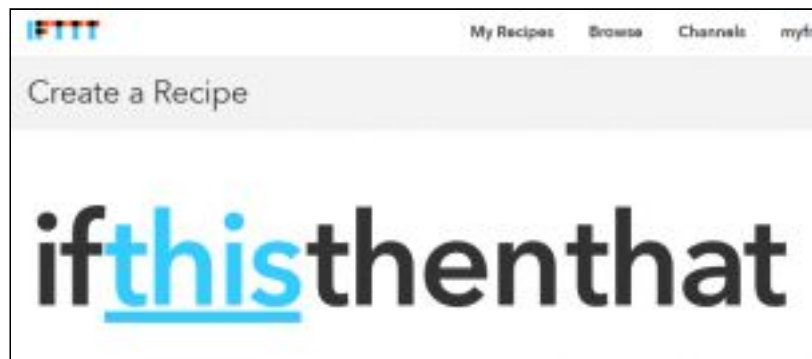
a) Sign up for an IFTTT account, if you don't already have one.



b) Click on 'my recipes' and then 'create a recipe':



c) Click the word 'this':



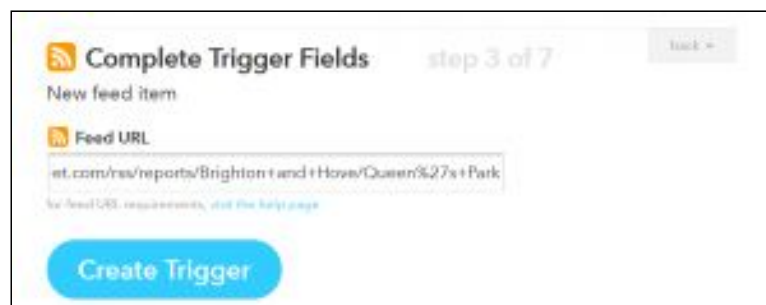
d) Search for the word 'feed' and then select the orange RSS symbol:



e) Click 'new feed item':



f) Input the URL of your FixMyStreet feed (the one we kept open earlier, in step 3) and click 'create trigger':



g) We've set up the first half of our 'recipe'—the 'IF THIS'. You can see it as the orange RSS feed sign in the sentence now.

So next we're going to tell the recipe what to do when that feed updates.  
Click the word 'that':



h) Search for Facebook and select 'Facebook pages':



IFTTT will take you through the steps of linking with Facebook and choosing which page to publish to. Just make sure you say 'yes' to everything.

i) Choose how you would like updates to display – a link post is probably most suitable  
This format allows you to add a message to every item it publishes: probably a good idea, because it helps give context to these posts that are going to appear in your Facebook stream.

FixMyStreet reports are often written in the first person, so if they appear without a title or explanation, they may look as if they are posts from you yourself.






j) Input some text if required, eg “Here’s a new report from x area”:

A screenshot of a web form titled "Complete Action Fields" with a sub-header "step 6 of 7" and a "back" button. The form is for "Create a link post". It contains a "Link URL" section with a text input field containing "EntryUrl". Below that is a "Message" section with a text area containing "Here's a new FixMyStreet report from the Queen's Park area". A blue "Create Action" button is at the bottom.

k) Click ‘create action’ and you’re done. Note that your feed will not start publishing out until the next report is made on FixMyStreet.

By the way, you can use this method to publish any RSS feed to your Facebook page, so you could also publish anything from blog posts to YouTube videos, so long as you can find the RSS source, which is usually signaled by that little orange icon: 

## For the technically-proficient: display reports on a map

It was once a very simple matter for anyone to publish an RSS feed onto a Google Map, which would display FixMyStreet reports graphically on your own site. Unfortunately, the functionality that allowed for this has now been removed.

If you have coding knowledge, or know anyone who has, it is still possible to achieve this: take a look at

<https://developers.google.com/maps/documentation/javascript/examples/layer-georss>.

mySociety