



The ACT Blog

Research: Care, Identity, and Reducing Carbon in rural Cumbria and the Lake District

At ACT, research studies and reports are an invaluable resource for helping us to support community projects and advocate on behalf of rural issues. In this blog, ACT CEO Lorraine Smyth offers three opportunities to get involved in research to advance the causes of rural groups, as well as some recent research reports which may be of interest to community groups. You can read the blog [here](#).

News from ACT

Growing our team

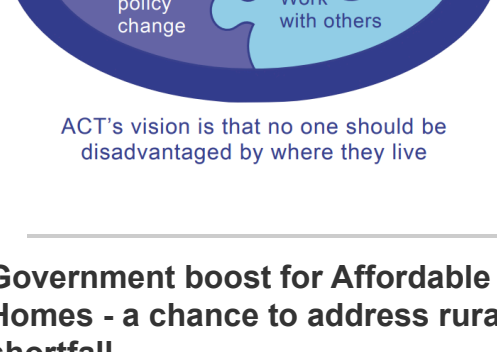
We are thrilled to welcome two new members to the ACT team. Lettie Wareing and Maureen Lawrie bring a dynamic range of skills and experience. With a focus on West Cumbria and some potential new developments, we are delighted to have them on board.

Welcome Lettie (pictured, left) and Maureen (right)!



Join us at the ACT Annual General Meeting and Community Celebration Event, Friday 24 October, at Preston Patrick Village Hall, or online.

ACT with Communities in Cumbria
champions community and rural issues



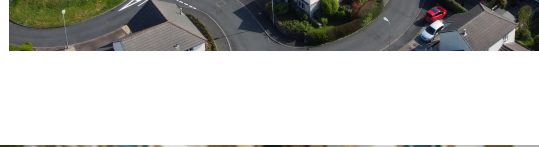
We will be talking about the National Park's Local Development Plan, why Local Plan's important, and how you can contribute.

We will also be celebrating the wonderful work that has been done by community groups and organisations. Join us to show your support, share your story, and learn from others.

Everyone is welcome, but booking is essential. [Please book here](#) and let us know if you'll be joining us online or in person. Thankyou!

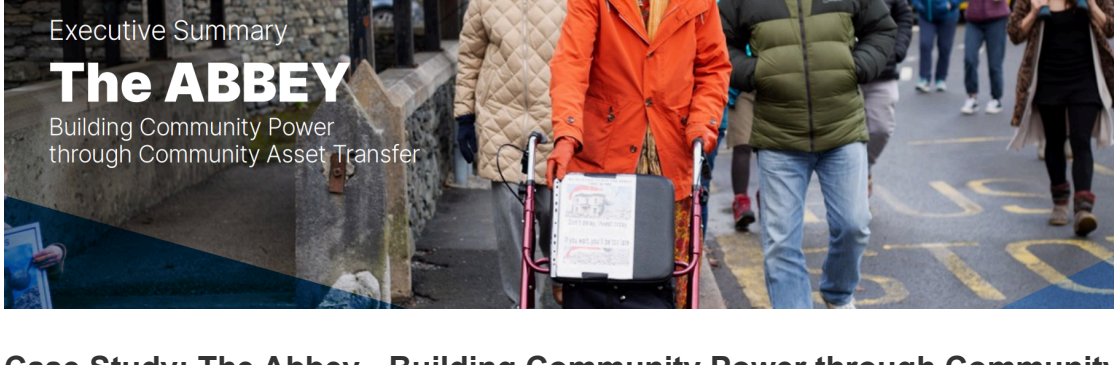
Government boost for Affordable Homes - a chance to address rural shortfall

In July, the government confirmed a record-breaking, 10-year, £39 billion [Social and Affordable Homes Programme](#) (SAHP). The Rural Housing Enabler Service in Cumbria, and colleagues across the country, will continue to push to make sure that small rural communities get their fair share of the promised investment. [Read more](#).



Executive Summary The ABBEY

Building Community Power through Community Asset Transfer



Case Study: The Abbey - Building Community Power through Community Asset Transfer

[Our latest Case Study](#) has been produced by [Rose Regeneration](#) as part of our Esmée Fairbairn funded work about Community Voice and power. It explores the lessons learned through the journey of [Slaveley Community Trust](#) to try and secure a former Cumbria County Council care home building for continued use by those in need in the community. There is some good learning here even though the great vision of the community has not been realised. If you read this case study and want to know more, please [get in touch](#).

"Where People Meet"

Community hubs are "hubs of social connection, stewards of health and wellbeing, vital partners in their local ecosystems and important physical assets that communities can depend on"

A new report, ["Where People Meet"](#) highlights the role of community buildings as "core and enduring part of the UK's social infrastructure". The report by [New Local](#) summarises the strengths of community buildings but also the challenges they face and what can be done to overcome them.



Community Buildings News

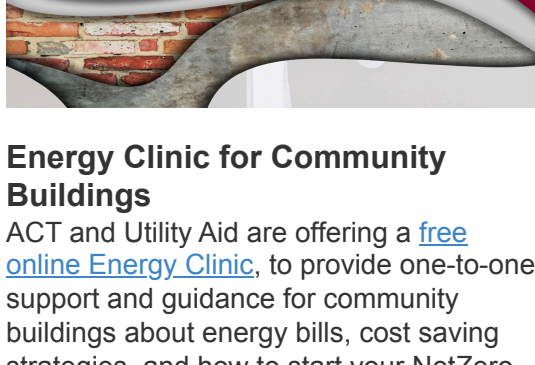


National Lottery grants available for community environment projects

National Lottery Awards for All – Environment

Up to £20K funding available for community projects that make a positive difference to the environment and/or help people connect with and enjoy nature where they live. Village hall capital projects to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions can apply. Deadline for applications is 17 December. [Read more](#)

Easyfundraising & eBay's Big Give
This month, when you and your volunteers or supporters buy from eBay via easyfundraising, your organisation will receive free cashback donations AND could receive a £500 bonus! Make sure your organisation is registered to receive payments when your supporters do their usual online shopping via easyfundraising, at no extra cost to them! [Read more](#)

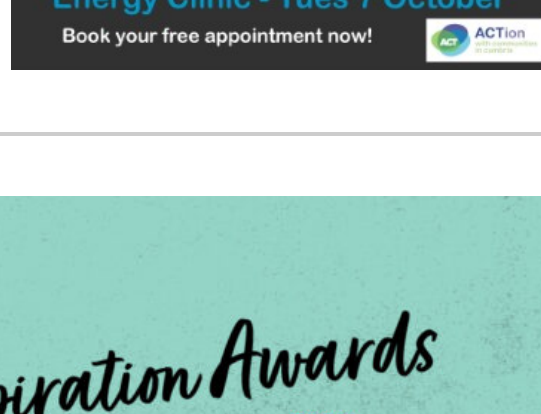


HSE Asbestos podcast

Free Health and Safety Executive (HSE) podcast about the duty to manage asbestos. HSE experts discuss the legal obligation to manage asbestos in non-domestic buildings, highlight where asbestos is likely to be found and explain why it is dangerous. [Listen here](#) to the podcast, and [contact us](#) at ACT to request the ACRE information sheet.

Energy Clinic for Community Buildings

ACT and Utility Aid are offering a [free online Energy Clinic](#), to provide one-to-one support and guidance for community buildings about energy bills, cost saving strategies, and how to start your NetZero journey. We have five 20-minute online appointments on Tuesday 7 October. Tel: 01768 425 666 or email [ACT to book now](#) [info@cumbriaaction.org.uk](#)



Village Halls Inspiration Awards 2025 – closing 30 September 2025

There is still time to enter the [Village Halls Inspiration Awards 2025](#) with prizes of up to £2,500 to be won and a chance to be featured on [The Village Halls Podcast](#). Share your hall's story and gain recognition for the pivotal role your hall plays in your community. Full details and entry form: [thevillagehallspodcast.com/inspiration-awards-2025](#)

News from Friends and Partners



New tool to identify those most vulnerable to climate change

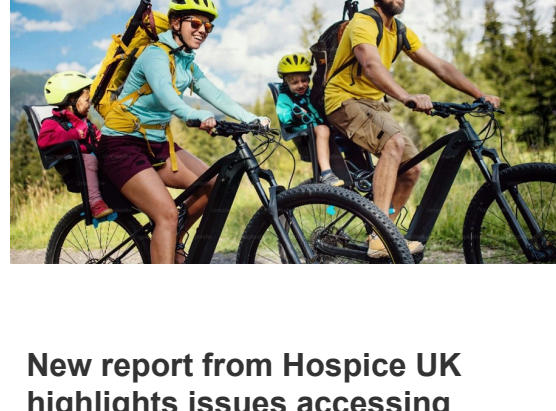
A new free webtool, [Climate Just](#), has been created to support the development of socially just and equitable responses to extreme events and wider climate change responses. The tool has been designed to:

- Identify who is vulnerable to climate change and fuel poverty and why
- Highlight the neighbourhoods where climate disadvantage is highest
- Explain the factors involved and help you decide what actions to take

The tool and its supporting website contain a vast array of useful information and data, and a short video is provided to help you navigate around it. The development of this resource has been overseen by a steering group of national and local stakeholders as well as the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Environment Agency and Climate UK.

Kendal Car-Free Inspiration Weekend 20-21 September

To celebrate International Car-Free Day, Kendal is hosting a weekend of activities to showcase fun and affordable activities that don't require a car. Events include an overnight family cycling adventure, Dr Bike sessions and a cycle confidence masterclass. For more information and to book your place on events, click [here](#).



New report from Hospice UK highlights issues accessing palliative care in rural areas

A new report from [Hospice UK](#) has found two thirds of people living in rural areas struggle to access end of life care. The report calls for urgent action to improve access to palliative and end of life care in remote, rural and island communities across the UK. You can read the report [here](#).

Futureproof Cumbria training

Check out Autumn dates to attend [Climate Fresk](#) or [Carbon Literacy](#) training with [Futureproof Cumbria](#) (formerly Cumbria Action for Sustainability). Climate Action Training is also available for people [working in schools](#) and other educational settings.



New funding round: The Great British Energy Community Fund

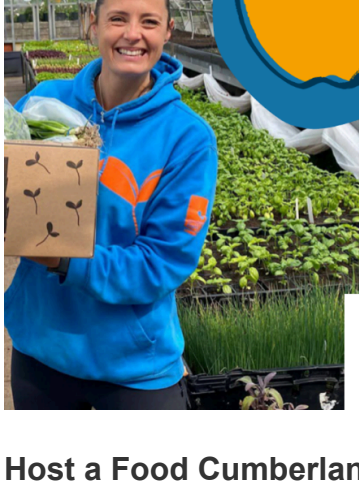
The UK Government's Great British Energy Community Fund provides funding of up to £140,000 to support parish and town councils, community organisations, faith groups, CICs, and sports groups to undertake clean power projects which benefit their local area. North West Net Zero Hub are now inviting Expressions of Interest for this funding, for more information please go to their [page](#).

Free space for your community group or organisation in Brampton

[Anchor](#) is the biggest provider of specialist housing and care for older people in England. They currently have a purpose-built community space available at their Union Court scheme in Brampton CA8 1BX

They are looking for an organisation to occupy the space, long term. It includes private entry, toilets/disabled toilets/bathroom, kitchen, side rooms, storage, and a small garden area. The space is offered at **no cost**, the occupier only paying for their own utilities.

Anyone interested can contact Rebecca Heede, Community Partnership Manager – [Rebecca.heede@anchor.org.uk](#).



Host a Food Cumberland Harvest Fest

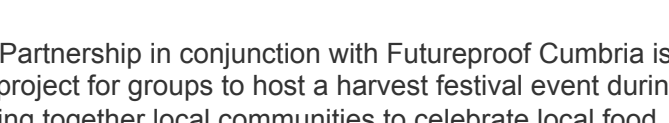
Celebrate local food
Promote low carbon and healthy eating
Minimise food waste
Avoid single use plastic

£150 grants available

Apply now



[zerocarboncumbria.co.uk/host-a-harvest-fest](#)



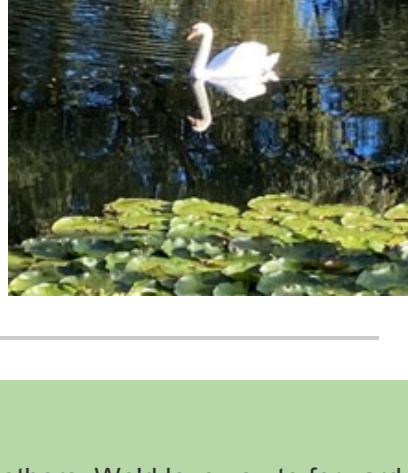
Host a Food Cumberland Harvest Festival

Cumberland Council's Food Partnership in conjunction with Futureproof Cumbria is offering £150 of funding per project for groups to host a harvest festival event during Autumn. The funding is to bring together local communities to celebrate local food, encourage healthy eating, and demonstrate how to minimise food waste and use of single use plastics. Deadline for applications is 12 September 2025. For more information and to apply, visit [here](#).

Cumbria Nutrient Neutrality Septic Tank Upgrade Programme

Homeowners are being offered the opportunity to have their septic tank upgraded to high performing Packaged Treatment Plants (PTP) as part of a programme designed to deliver nutrient credits that will unlock new housing in Cumbria.

For more information contact [Nutrientneutrality@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk](#) or visit [Nutrient Neutrality North West : Lake District National Park](#)



And finally...

If you find this information useful, please do share it with others. We'd love you to forward this email to friends and colleagues. You can also follow us on Facebook to keep up with our very latest news and views.

If you are not already an ACT supporter, why not join us? It's free and it means that we can keep in touch with you directly from time to time. You can [unsubscribe](#) at any time from all ACT mailings.

Become a Supporter

