





Welcome to our December newsletter!

Thank you for all the amazing things that you have been doing with your communities over the last year. Keep up the hard work - we're here to help! We want to take this opportunity to wish you a peaceful festive season. From us all at the ACT team,

Carole, Dani, Fran, Hellen, Jozi, Lettie, Lorraine and Maureen.





ACT News

Cumbria Community Transport Conference 10th March 2026

Save the date for the **Cumbria Community Transport Conference** taking place at **The Quiet Site, Ullswater** on the **10th March 2025**. This conference will offer the opportunity for community groups to:

- Learn from innovative community transport groups/leaders,
- Recognise their power to create change,
- Develop ideas,
- Envision the future of community transport in Cumbria.

Registration and further details to come in the New Year. For more information please contact info@cumbriaaction.org.uk

Hosted by:



Supported by:










Local Plan - early birds!

It's been a pleasure to meet more than eighty people in the last few weeks keen to learn more about what Local Development Plans are and why they matter. We're working with a handful of communities, with a focus on the Lake District, to get community voices and suggestions in front of the planners *before* policy changes are drafted.

Local Plans across Cumbria, set context for communities and how their place can change over the next 10-20 years. Housing, employment and natural resources all need our thoughtful input. Mail franrichardson@cumbriaaction.org.uk to find out more about this work.



Join #TheFoodConversation

We're talking about food, here in Cumberland! Over the last year, we've been working alongside The Food Cumberland Partnership and attending Cumberland Council's Community Panel Network events. Find out more [here](#) and please [get in touch](#) if you're thinking about a community growing project we can help get off the ground.

And a reminder that, if you're fired up about FOOD, take a look at this interesting work by the [Food Farming and Countryside Commission](#) on linking the developing national Food Strategy with the government's new [Pride in Place Strategy](#).

Have your say on the future of the Lake District

You are invited to share your views on a new plan which will shape the future of the Lake District.

The [Lake District National Park Partnership](#) has launched a [consultation for its Partnership plan](#), setting out a strategy for the management of the National Park and English Lake District World Heritage Site from 2026 to 2031.

The starting point for the plan is a shared vision for 2051, shaped by the Partnership's 24 partners, including ACT: *'The Lake District is deeply valued by the nation, as a thriving, working landscape, which is nature and heritage rich, climate resilient and socially and economically vibrant'*.



Community Buildings News





ACTion

with communities in cumbria

Community Buildings Event

Save The Date: ACT Community Buildings Event

'Be Capital Funding Ready'

Saturday 24 January 2026

10am – 12 noon, online

Planning improvements for your hall in 2026? Be capital funding ready. Whether you're just at the idea stage or looking for funding, this event will help you to develop your project and have a better chance of success with funders. Both new and experienced committee members welcome, a great opportunity to meet with other hall volunteers.

Save the Date: 24th January 2026. Booking details will be shared in the New Year.

Save the Date: Saturday January 24th

Village Halls Week 2026

Village Halls Week is back for 2026 and will run from 16th to 22nd March. The annual national campaign shines a light on the contribution England's 10,000+ village halls make to rural communities and celebrates all those involved in running them.

The theme for 2026 is '**Connecting Communities to Health & Wellbeing**' and each day will relate to one of the five NHS five steps to wellbeing:

- Being Active: be physically active.
- Connecting: connect with other people.
- Giving: give to others.
- Learning: learn new skills.
- Noticing: pay attention to the present moment (mindfulness).

Visit [ACRE's website](#) for information and [register your hall](#) to request a **free pack of bunting and badges** to help celebrate. The number of packs is limited so it's first come first served! Also visit ACT's website for a [reminder of Village Halls Week 2025](#)



Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Our Pledge:

We are committed to creating a safe and inclusive space for everyone using our facilities, including children, young people, and adults at risk.

Reporting a concern

Cumberland

Child (2477) 0333 240 1727

Adult (0300 373 3732)

Out of hours (adult) 01228 273 800

Westmorland & Furness

Child (2477) 0300 373 2724

Adult (0300 373 3301)

Out of hours (adult) 01539 768 700

If someone is in immediate danger, call 999.

Safeguarding Posters

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and village hall committees have an important part to play in creating safe spaces for the people using your hall.

Everyone has a responsibility to: look out for others; know where to find help; and to have Safeguarding policies and procedures in place to support this.

[Visit ACT's website](#) for more information and to download free posters for your hall. They've been designed with key contacts included, and space for you to add your hall's Safeguarding Contact details.

National Highways Community Legacy Fund - A66

Community Buildings contacts along the wider A66 Corridor might want to check out the 'Community Legacy Fund' from National Highways aimed at supporting social value projects. The Fund can potentially offer support of between £500 and £10,000 towards eligible initiatives and groups are encouraged to submit and Expression of Interest.

Got an idea? Contact the A66 NTP team:
Martina.rodrigues@nationalhighways.co.uk
Michaela.maunders@balfourbeatty.com
Martin.follmer@kier.co.uk
Jade.pettman-smith@kier.co.uk
Stuart.culley@aueros.com

News from Friends and Partners

Grant Funding & Business Support for SMEs and Social Enterprises in Cumberland

What's on offer from [Cumbria Business Growth Hub](#)?

Equipment Grants – Funding of up to £5,000 (at 50% support) to help organisations purchase essential equipment or make small but important improvements that enable growth or increased capacity.

Eligible Uses – Funding can support productivity improvements, operational upgrades, investment in new technology or equipment, green or low-carbon transitions, diversification activities, and work that strengthens the long-term sustainability of the organisation.

If your organisation could benefit from this support and you would like to understand eligibility or the application process, please contact [Cumbria Business Growth Hub](#) for full details.

Cumbria Climate Assembly - sign the Charter!

Find out more about the Cumbria Climate Assembly and the 17 recommendations they have made regarding how to engage Cumbrians better in the decisions that are made about Climate Change action in the county. You can support them by signing the Charter, on the [Futureproof Cumbria](#) website, which sets out good ways of putting people at the heart of climate decision making.

Connecting Cumbria November Update

The Connecting Cumbria programme is dedicated to delivering the [Digital Infrastructure Strategy](#) for Cumbria. That means supporting improvements to broadband and mobile connectivity across both Westmorland and Furness and Cumberland. Lots of interesting information in their [newsletter](#) and links for more. There is also a piece on the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) switch off that we know many rural people are concerned about. Well worth a look. You can [subscribe here](#).

Countryside and Communities Research Institute (CCRI) on Devolution & Affordable Homes, and Rural Climathons

Climathons are a way to get people involved in local climate action. Do you want to have this discussion in your community? Have a look at [this resource](#) and see if it would help you.

CCRI also released [this research](#) last week showing how vital it is that rural affordable housing is locked in to the developing Mayoral Strategic Authorities.

Christmas

Waste Minimisation & Recycling Toolkit

It's time to spread festive cheer - and make it a Christmas that counts! There's still time to use the [Christmas Toolkit](#), created by Rstuff for schools, councils, and community groups. Filled with practical resources, this toolkit makes it easy to host a fun, responsible, and thoughtful holiday season.

Inside you'll find social media posts, classroom activities, and tips on reducing waste - from wrapping paper and decorations to food leftovers. Use it to spark conversations, host more environmentally conscious events, and share simple ways to re-use, recycle, and reduce this Christmas.

[Download the pack](#), choose what fits your audience, and deliver a season of thoughtful celebrations!

National Lottery Awards for All – Environment

The climate and nature emergency affects us all. Local action can make a real difference. We fund projects that help people connect with and care for nature in their area and which make a positive difference to the environment. Grants of between £300 and £20,000 available, including for capital projects to reduce carbon emissions. [Read more](#) to find out how to apply.

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

ACTion with Communities in Cumbria

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