



Support your local shop!

Village and local shops are so much more than just places to buy things. But in these days when we can have practically anything delivered, village shops can really struggle. What's your local shop like?

Read [Lorraine's Blog](#) to find out how local shops are doing according to the [Association of Convenience stores Rural Shop report 2026](#).

The ACT Blog

ACT News

Cumbria Community Transport Conference 10th March 2026

The Cumbria Community Transport Conference will be taking place on **Tuesday 10th March 2026 9.30am-4pm at The Quiet Site, Ullswater.**

The conference, hosted by [Sustainable and Integrated Transport for Ullswater \(SITU\)](#) and supported by [ACTion with Communities in Cumbria \(ACT\)](#) and [The Royal Countryside Fund \(RCF\)](#) will provide an opportunity for community transport initiatives/groups to come together and learn from one another, develop ideas, and envision the future of community transport in Cumbria. More information [here](#). Places are free but [booking is essential](#).



Cumbria Community Transport CONFERENCE



Community Buildings News



Community Buildings Event

Community Buildings Event

'Connecting communities to health and wellbeing'

Saturday 14th March, 10am – 2.30pm

Braithwaite Institute, nr Keswick

Join us for our next Community Buildings Event where we'll be launching Village Halls Week and celebrating how village halls help to keep people healthy, active, and connected. We're looking forward to meeting up again in-person, providing more opportunities for discussion and networking. Save the date and keep an eye out for further details coming soon. [Read more](#).

Village Halls Week 2026

This year's Village Halls Week runs from 16th to 22nd March with the theme 'Connecting Communities to Health and Wellbeing'. The annual national campaign celebrates village halls and thanks all those involved in running them. How will your hall get involved? The free resource packs are on their way to halls that registered early, and resources to download are available [here](#). Visit [ACT's website](#) for details.



**Connecting
communities to
health and
wellbeing**
16-22 March 2026



Village Hall Guide to Battery storage

Considering battery storage for your village hall? This [new introductory guide](#) will help you to consider whether a battery is right for your hall, the implications for your hall's energy use and costs, and design and management strategies to make a battery most effective and efficient for you and your carbon footprint. Visit our [Community Buildings webpage](#) for this and other guidance on capital improvement projects.

easyfundraising generates £700k for community groups in 2025

Last year community groups and voluntary organisations using easyfundraising benefitted from over £700,000 in free, unrestricted funding. All thanks to their volunteers and supporters simply shopping online. Why not get your share this year? Register with easyfundraising and 8,000+ retailers will donate to your organisation with every online shop - with some selected retailers offering donations in-store too. [Find out more](#)



Utility Aid shares Energy Outlook

Utility Aid's latest [Energy Outlook](#) provides a clear snapshot of the current energy market and what organisations need to know. Utility Aid exists to help charities and not-for-profit organisations source energy, and for nearly 30 years has helped them cut costs, reclaim overcharges, and gain control over their utilities. Read more about ACT's partnership with Utility Aid and how to access a free consultancy session [here](#)

News from Friends and Partners

10 ways to keep connected - Eden Project

By simply being better connected to each other, communities as a whole can become healthier and happier. In fact, our research on [the value of connected communities](#) shows there are multiple mental benefits to reaching out. Did you know, for 1 in 20 people, talking with a neighbour is the highlight of their day? Our 10 favourite, simple ways to connect are [just here](#).



Funding Experience Survey



170+ funders want to hear from charities, social enterprises, and community organisations about your funding experience – whether it's been positive, frustrating, or a bit of both! Take IVAR's (Institute for Voluntary Action Research) [15 minute survey](#) by Wed 4 March, and what you share will be seen by trusts and foundations and used to build the case for better funding experiences. [Read more](#)



Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

Overnight visitor levy in England - consultation

The government plans to introduce a new discretionary power for Mayors in England, and potentially Foundation Strategic Authorities, to levy a charge on paid overnight stays. [This consultation](#) which close next week (Feb 18) is asking how this new power should be implemented.

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



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