

ACTion with Communities in Cumbria

Annual Review 2021/22



Welcome to our annual review!



A message from our chairperson, Joanna Tate:

‘Our vice president Olive Clarke OBE, was one hundred recently. We celebrated her with flowers and a donation to her village hall where she has been treasurer for many years.

I want to thank all my fellow trustees, the staff, our many supporters, and our funders for their commitment to making communities across Cumbria better places to live.

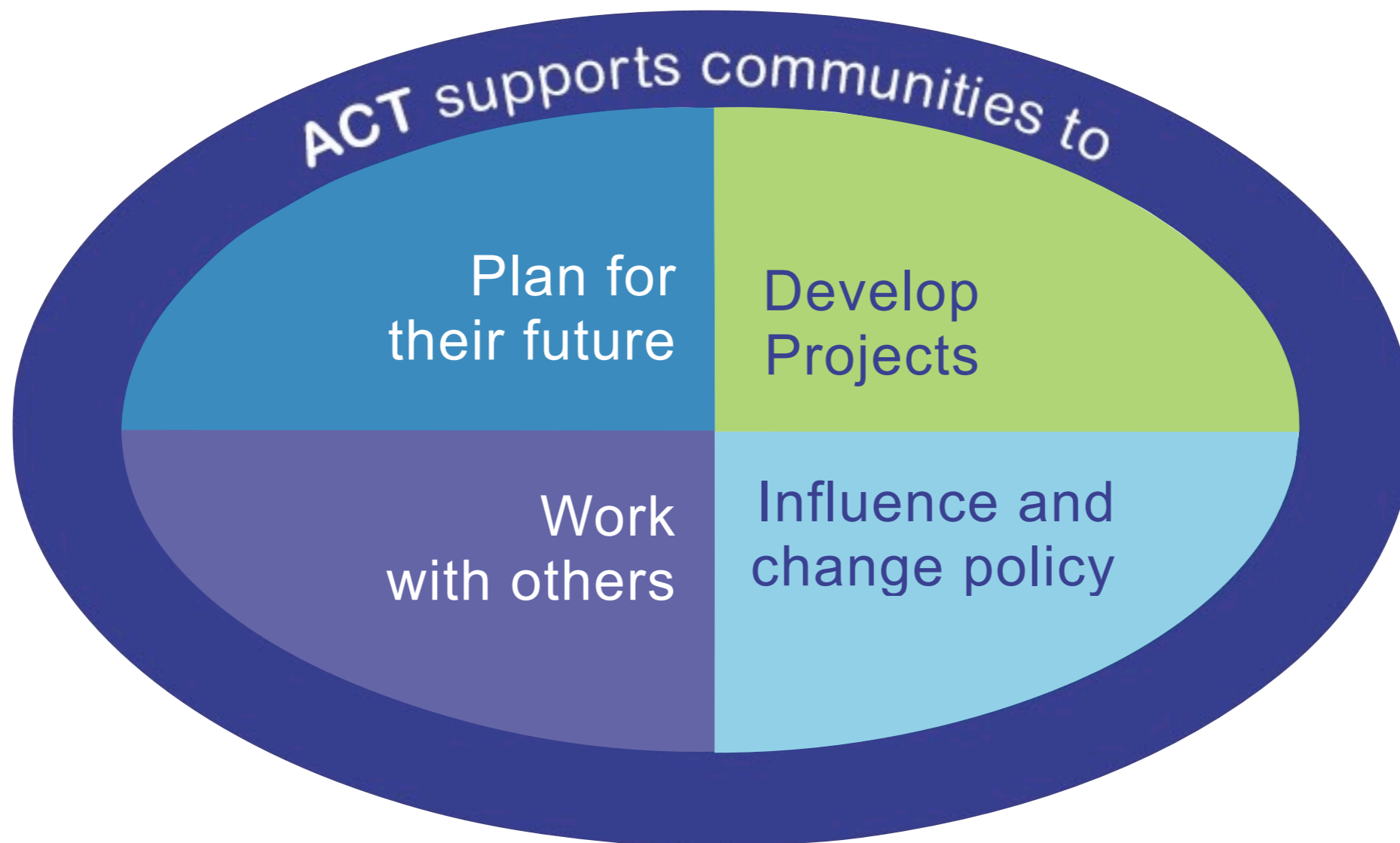
We hope you enjoy this select review of our work!’



Lorraine presenting Olive with flowers from ACT for her 100th birthday

ACT Trustees: Alan McViety, Sue Castle-Clarke, Sam Bramwell, Ron Munby, Jim Webster, Charles Ecroyd & our President is Jolyon Dodgson

ACTion **with communities in Cumbria**
champions community and rural issues



The year in numbers



Secured for Cumbrian projects



32 Partnerships



489 community building enquiries

Assisted 12 community led housing groups



Over 300 online meetings hosted



23 community led planning discussions

The year in numbers



**Over 630
enquiries in total!**

A light blue computer monitor icon is positioned in the center of the slide. The text 'Over 630 enquiries in total!' is displayed in a bold, dark blue font within the white screen area of the monitor.



ACT is involved in discussions and projects where we can shape policy based on the needs that communities have told us about

- On Fuel Poverty Awareness Day (Dec 2021) we hosted an online event to discuss the scale of Fuel Poor households in Cumbria
- We were invited by The Health Equality Commission to inform their recommendations on wellbeing in rural places



- We are advising the Town Fund Boards in Cleator Moor and Millom on governance and engagement
- We encouraged and supported the Windermere Master Plan group to hold a Citizen Panel to inform future engagement around water quality in the Windermere catchment area

Planning for the future



Our work helps communities to develop plans and ideas on a range of issues

‘I’m definitely going to go use some of the lines Zosia wrote for the Solway Nature recovery plan... Using poetry was a really useful and interesting approach ‘

‘I pick up all sorts of good information at the Community led housing forum... there is space for me to ask questions and share ideas’

‘ACT’s contribution was, as always, much valued in developing the plans for our village housing project’

Planning for the future



- We are working to support communities to plan for the green transition and a just, zero carbon future
- ACT carried out some research on housing with our supporters: the results of which highlighted the severe challenges with finding affordable rental properties in Cumbria, and informed a discussion in Parliament



Communities sincerely appreciate our community buildings expertise

‘The regular Community Building Events highlight key topics and provide networking. There are many daunting problems for all of us ahead but help is at hand with the ACT team.’

‘I had no idea that such a great source of support was available from ACT. In addition to our successful fundraising, we also now have excellent policies and procedures.’

‘The staff at ACT are so helpful... If in doubt about the way forward with village hall related problems our first port of call is always ACT.’

Supporting project development



Dalston Victory Hall



Scaleby Village Hall



Arnside Institute



Thursby Parish Hall

- ACT runs the national Hallmark award scheme for halls in Cumbria. During Covid we adapted to online assessment visits.
- The four halls above achieved Hallmark One, with Thursby also achieving Hallmark two
- Thanks to our Hallmark volunteer assessors Peg Eastwood and Helen Squires

Working with others



ACT facilitates discussions on issues important to rural communities

‘The consortium bid [led by ACT] secured our support for arts engagement in West Cumbria due to its vision and community led approach’

‘ACT is a unique partner for ZCCP having expertise and vast experience of both policy matters and community engagement’

‘ACT is a key strategic partner, influencing policy and decision making, and ways of working with other stakeholders’



We help to promote community successes to others in our eNewsletter

Working with others



- We advised and supported Electricity Northwest to develop a future resilience fund for communities effected by Storm Arwen
- We brought together community groups and the Lake District National Park Partnership to consider sustainable transport solutions
- We are assisting Active Cumbria with leadership and rural knowledge

ACT staff



Damien, West Coast



Dani, Office Manager



Fran, CLH Hub



Hellen, Eden & Carlisle



Julia, Development Manager



Katie, Support Officer



Lorraine, CEO

Looking ahead



ACT will continue to support communities as we recover from the pandemic and deal with the cost of living and climate crisis

- Using our new Rural Wellbeing Statement we will continue to support communities in new and existing areas
- Working with partners we will help Cumbria to address the opportunities and challenges of zero carbon for rural areas
- We will continue to pursue local affordable housing solutions for rural Cumbrians



Financial Report



This has been a challenging year for many, ourselves included, and we have made a loss. A significant loss was predicted, but this was reduced through the year with tight management. Our reserves are still strong and with some new opportunities we know the coming year will be somewhat better.

We continue to hold to our principles of not taking on work that others in the county are better placed to do, or taking from funders who are more focussed on funding front line work.

As the pandemic continues, the need for our support services has continued to increase. We are in a stable financial position to carry on meeting those needs, with the support of our many funders and partners



Alan McViety
ACT Treasurer

Financial Report



Charity Income	21/22	20/21	19/20
ACRE/DEFRA	52,765	51,068	72,530
Local authority service level agreements (SLAs)	45,800	43,850	56,850
Community Fund Fit for the Future, Fit for Funding	40,000	40,000	40,000
CLH Hub	16,000	49,110	65,000
Other Grants and donations	37,101	37,547	35,926
Bank Interest	1,758	1,745	1,938
Miscellaneous	2,410	39,744	37,015
TOTAL	195,834	263,064	309,259

Charity Costs	21/22	20/21	19/20
Staff costs	179,444	193,663	181,317
Direct project delivery	17,328	21,535	59,848
Travel	4,043	-	5,611
Premises, office and IT	36,255	37,715	39,159
Audit and legal	5,926	7,009	6,675
Membership	5,400	5,544	4,835
TOTAL	248,396	265,466	297,445

Funders



Lake District National Park



Funders



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government



Support ACT



Becoming a free supporter of ACT will enable us to keep you informed about our work and provide evidence to allow us to keep supporting Cumbrian communities for years to come!



Become an ACT Supporter

Remember if you support us
- we can better support you!

Find our supporter form here: www.cumbriaaction.org.uk/about/join-us

ACTion with Communities in Cumbria



Thank you for watching
our Annual Review!

Registered in England as:
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Company No. 3957858



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