

You've finished your Community led Plan, what next? After celebrating the launch, it's time to start delivering those actions you've worked so hard to identify. Be prepared for it to take time, it could take several years to achieve some actions.

## Where to start

Send the document to everyone that can help you achieve your actions.

Take advice from ACTion with Communities in Cumbria and your district and county council to find out who you need to contact in the organisations or local authority departments you need to work with.

Decide who is going to deliver the Plan. In many case responsibility for it will pass to the Parish or Town Council but in other communities the Plan steering group stays involved to deliver it.



## Getting Help

Some Local Authorities have a dedicated officer to help you implement your plan, use them! Other Authorities have an agreed 'protocol' that outlines how they will deal with your plan and provide you with support. Contact ACT for more details about those areas that have agreed protocols or contacts.

Find out how other communities have got projects off the ground. Speak to other parishes or communities who have similar issues and find out how they've dealt with them.

ACT and other bodies can usually provide advice, but it is always worth learning from other groups' experience to find short-cuts and avoid pitfalls. ACT have a wide-range of written and video case studies available which document the experiences of communities around the county tackling a variety of projects.

*Affordable housing in Crosby Ravensworth. An action from the Lyvennet Valley Community Plan*

### Who's going to deliver the plan?

- Parish / Town Council
- Community Led Plan steering group/delivery group

### Get Help

- Learn from the experiences of others who have tackled similar projects
- Find out who you need to work with from other organisations and build a relationship with them

### Maintain momentum with a mix of...

- Quick easier to deliver projects
- Longer term strategic projects

## Benefits of collaboration

Can you work with neighbouring parishes or communities who may want to address the same issue?

For example, are your neighbours on the same bus route or will the closure of a village shop affect all those within a ten mile radius? If so, think about bringing communities to work together as a group.

Even if neighbouring communities don't have Community Led Plans they may have the same concerns and be willing to work with you.

If you have a group of parishes or communities that already work together in your locality make sure that you've shared your finished plan with them and have looked for ways to tackle issues that affect many of you.

## Making it happen

Not all the actions in the Plan need to be the responsibility of the Parish / Town Council or the delivery group. Some actions could be passed to new or existing community groups.

For example, if one of the actions is to improve play facilities a new group could be set up by parents to raise funds and plan the project. Improvements to a village hall are likely to be the responsibility of the hall's management committee.

"It requires a lot of work to encourage people to get involved in delivering actions and it's been useful to build on current activity and work with existing community groups"

Joan Stocker, Windermere Town Council

## Maintain momentum

You can maintain momentum by keeping your community interested. Consider doing the following:

- Make sure that you tackle some simple projects or 'quick wins' early on to boost confidence. In Cumbria, about half of the actions in Community Led Plans are those that that community can tackle on their own without outside help and these are usually easier to get going. Other actions are more strategic and involve working with other organisations, such as local authorities, and often take longer. It helps to have a mix of these to see some progress!
- Communicate and celebrate achievements and try to feature your plan in the local media when you've made progress.
- Recruit new volunteers and encourage them to take on responsibilities. You may find people who are enthusiastic about a particular issue or project who will get involved even if they're less interested in the rest of the plan.

## More information

ACT Development Officers can offer further support. A range of Guidance Sheets are also available on our website, information about project planning and funding, and written and video case studies of community projects: [www.cumbriaaction.org.uk](http://www.cumbriaaction.org.uk)

For funding information and advice go to Cumbria CVS: [www.cumbriacvs.org.uk](http://www.cumbriacvs.org.uk)

Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) also provide information about Community Led Planning: [www.acre.org.uk](http://www.acre.org.uk)

**For more information please contact ACTion with Communities in Cumbria on Tel: 01228 817224 or visit our website: [www.cumbriaaction.org.uk](http://www.cumbriaaction.org.uk)**

## *ACT champions community and rural issues*

ACTion with Communities in Cumbria, Offices O-Q, Skirsgill Business Park, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 0FA  
T: 01228 817224 | [www.cumbriaaction.org.uk](http://www.cumbriaaction.org.uk) | [info@cumbriaaction.org.uk](mailto:info@cumbriaaction.org.uk) | Follow us @ACTCumbria  
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