

# **ACTion with Communities in Cumbria**

**Annual Review 2022/23**





# Welcome to our annual review!



## A message from the ACT Trustees:

'We are pleased to share with you this carefully curated selection of ACT's work over the last year. We hope this will whet your appetite for more detail, which you can find on our website and in our regular E-News circulations. Please do let us know any feedback you have on our annual review.'

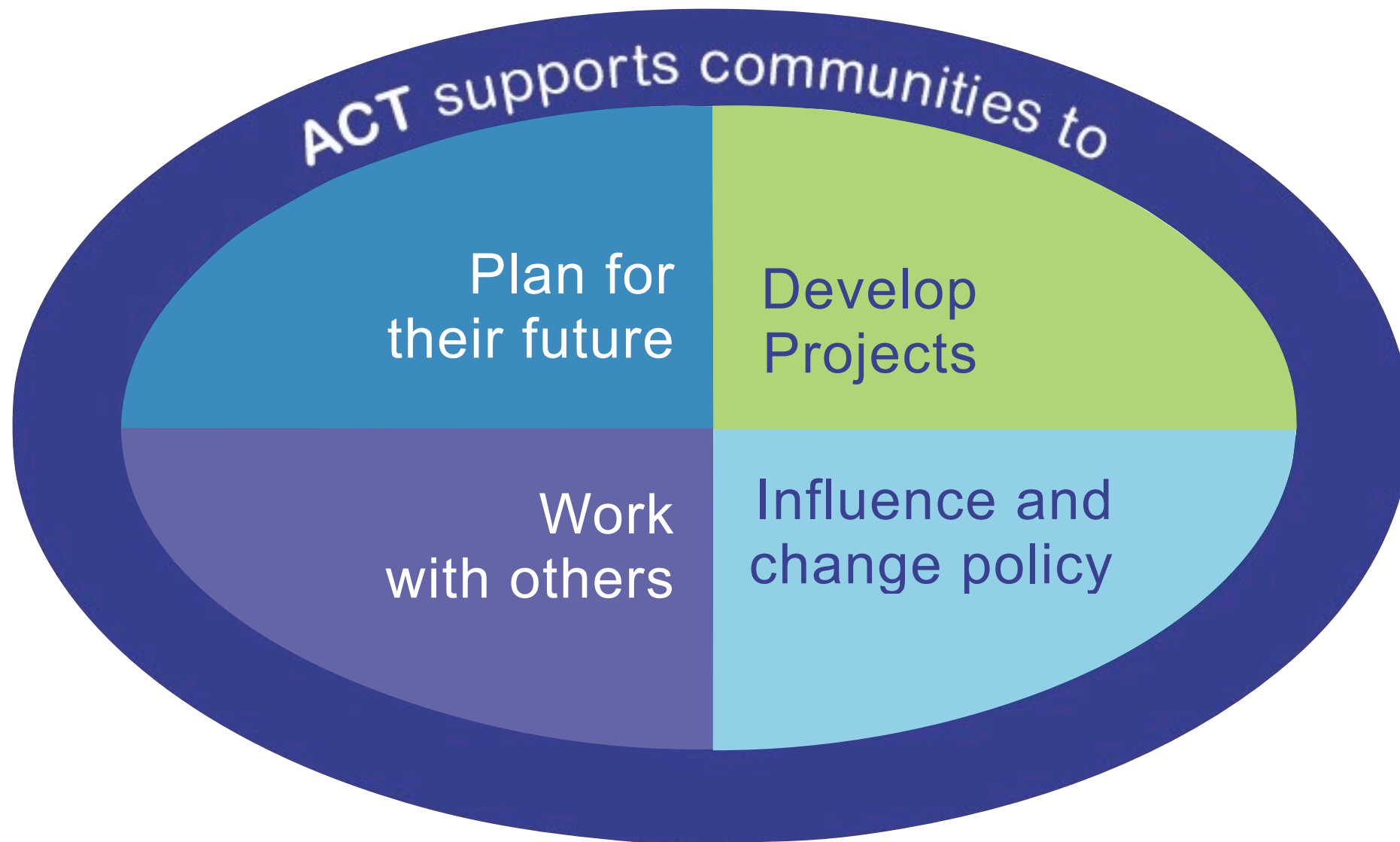
Thank you to all our funders, supporters and to our amazing staff team. Please join us if you have not done so already and make Cumbria a place where no one is disadvantaged by where they live.'



This year, longterm ACT Trustee Ron Munby, retired. We thank him for his support and wish him well for the future

ACT Trustees: Joanna Tate, Jim Webster, Alan McViety, Sue Castle-Clarke, Sam Bramwell, Liz Clegg, Charles Ecroyd, Juan Shimmin, & our President is Jolyon Dodgson

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



# The year in numbers



Secured for Cumbrian projects

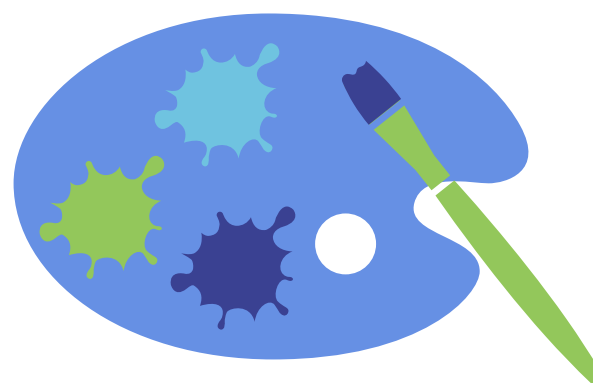


35 Community Led Housing Groups supported



381 community building enquiries

230 people engaged in sustainable transport discussions



Networked with 60 creative artists and groups in West Cumbria



Support to 200 'warm spots'



# The year in numbers

The central graphic features three icons: a light blue computer monitor at the top, a dark blue telephone handset on the left, and a green envelope on the right. The monitor's screen displays the text 'Over 520 enquiries in total!' in dark blue.

**Over 520  
enquiries in total!**



The challenges of rural travel...



- ACT works with the Lake District National Park (LDNP) Partnership and Zero Carbon Cumbria on carbon reduction, sustainable transport and rural living.
- We held an online conference with 100 participants, discussing appetite for different travel options for locals, businesses and visitors in the Lake District
- We've worked with ACRE to lobby on and influence banking policies in rural areas, highlighting the importance of access to banking services



# Influencing and changing policy



We hosted a successful and engaging visit from 60 University of Liverpool students, keen to expand their knowledge of rural issues, specifically around spatial planning, access to services and social care in rural places.

‘Thank you for such a varied and interesting workshop. The students had a great time and really enjoyed connecting the topics to their lectures to bring everything to life. The ACT workshop and case studies were really good for reflective, transferable learning’



Potential policy makers of the future!



# Planning for the future



- ACT was commissioned to run a Housing Needs Survey for Arnside Parish Council, to inform their plan for future housing. There is interest in taking a community led approach to providing a small number of affordable homes
- ACT continues to work with Silloth Town Council on their Town Plan. Four online consultations have identified priorities for the area
- We assisted 12 community buildings to have energy and building condition surveys which helps them plan for a sustainable future



# Planning for the future



- With funding from Electricity North West, we've provided wraparound support to 35 communities affected by Storm Arwen.
- In partnership with Cumbria Community Foundation, community venues and emergency response groups have been able to purchase resilience equipment.
- We've link groups up with Cumbria Local Resilience Forum and provided advice on emergency planning

‘A huge thank you to the team for the support to apply for funding and purchase three emergency generators which have been installed in Alston, Garrigill and Nenthead to support the community in extraordinary events’





# Supporting project development



- Our first face to face community buildings (CB) event since the pandemic started was a great success, with discussions on project development
- ACT supported 25 CB projects towards achieving National Lottery funding. Five halls were awarded Hallmark quality standard certificates
- We facilitate volunteer collaboration meetings amongst Eden's five community run open air swimming pools

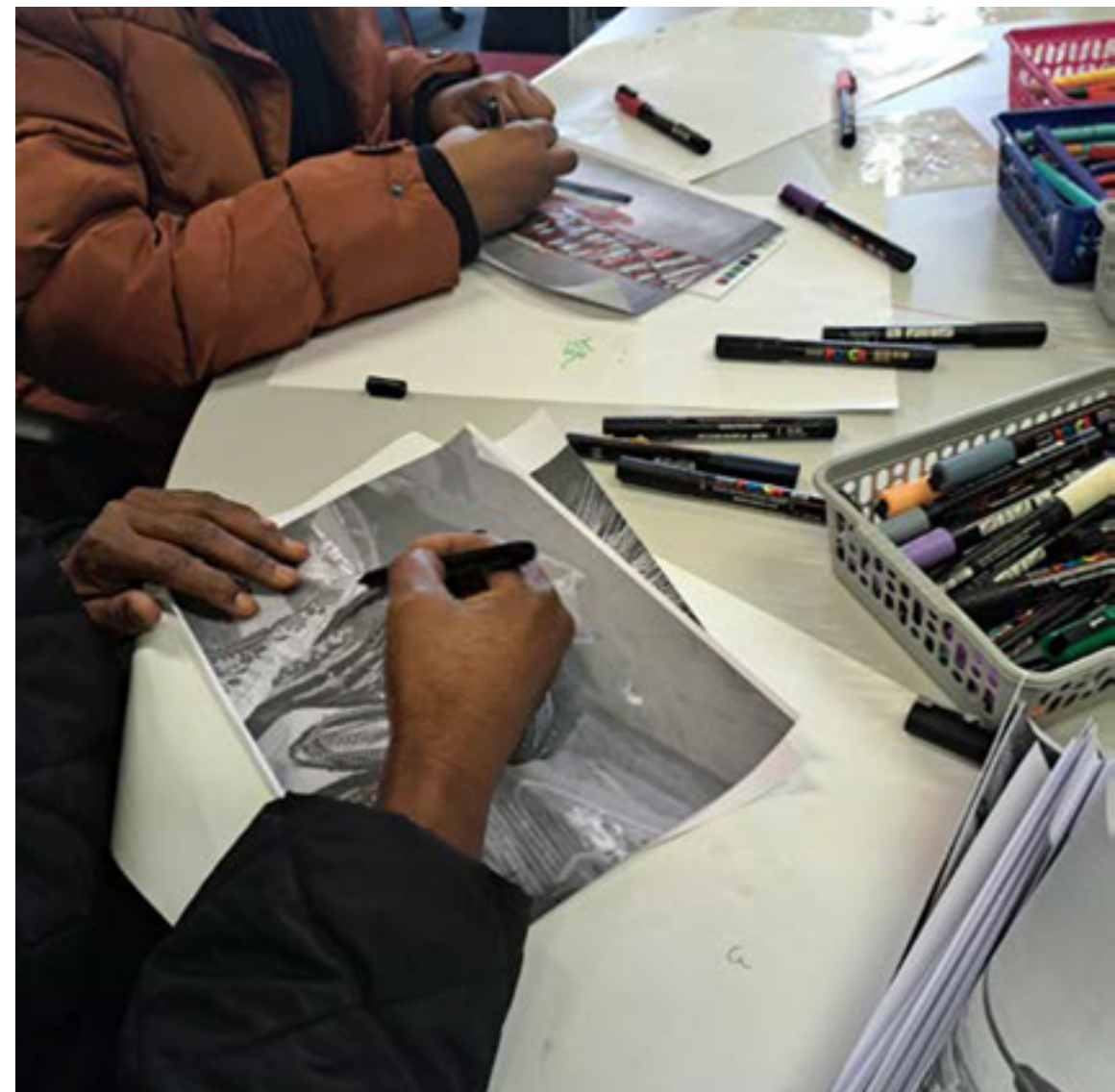


# Supporting project development



ACT is using the creative arts to assist communities across Cumbria

- One of our projects is We are Here! the Creative People and Places (CPP) initiative for West Cumbria, funded by Arts Council England. There are 39 CPPs across England. ACT is the lead organisation for this project and chairs our consortium which includes 8 West Cumbrian organisations



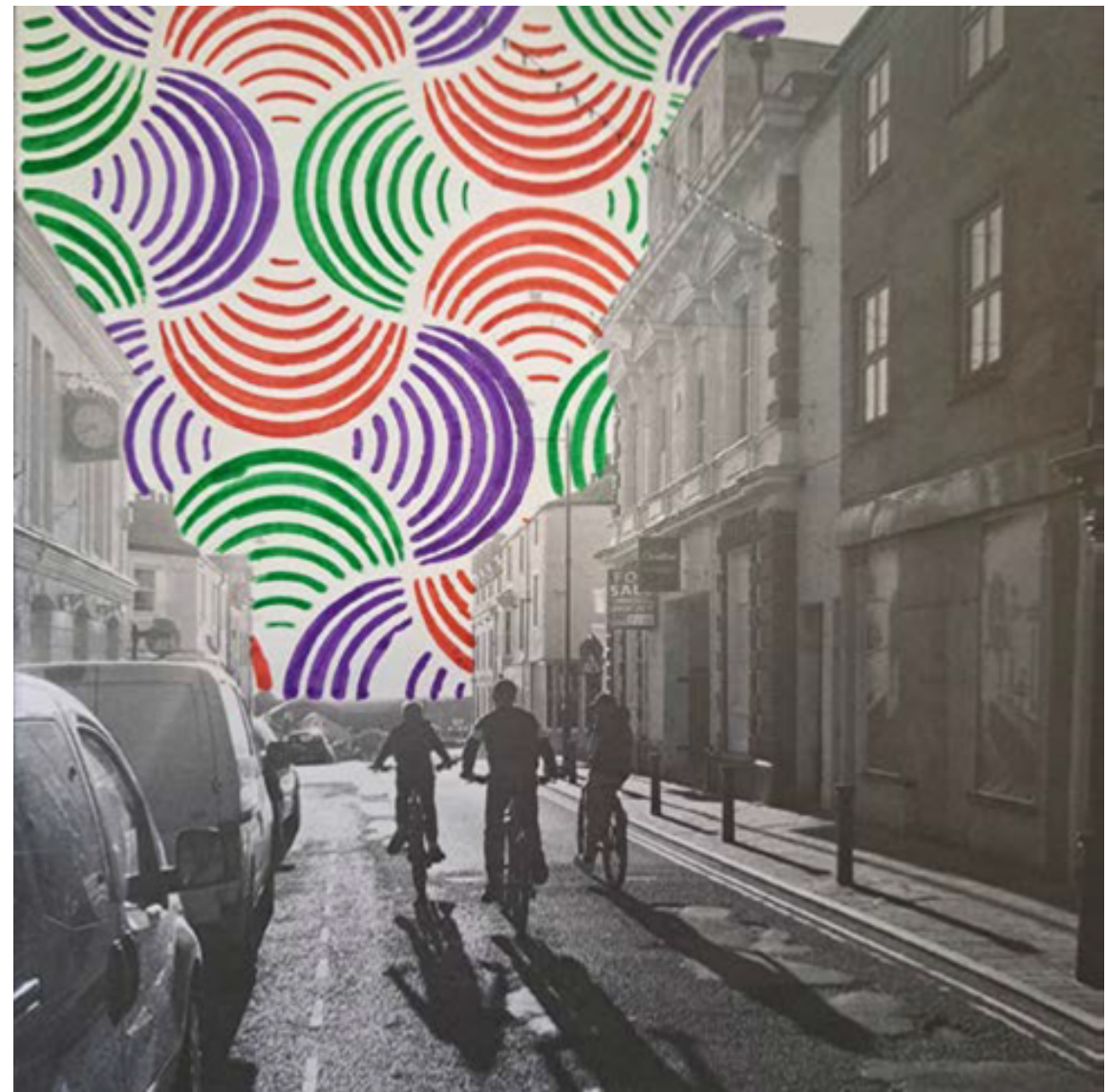


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- Working with local artists, 99 West Cumbrians expressed their views on culture and their experience of everyday life through creative methods. This initiative will form the basis of future work.





# Working with others



ACT assists communities to make their voices heard and to advocate for change

- We worked with partners in the county to produce a toolkit to help over 200 venues set up 'Warm Spots'
- Warm spots provide at least four hours of free, welcoming, neighbourly activities and refreshments each week
- We assisted with policies, procedures, funding and advice
- We worked with Copeland Community Fund to develop eight rural warm spots in response to the cost of living crisis



Places to Talk case study available at: <https://www.cumbriaaction.org.uk/news-events/news-places-to-talk-in-st-bees-2023-01-20>



# Working with others



- Working with the Environment Agency, ACT has supported active community members and representatives to have a place at the table with the Love Windermere Partnership which is developing a 25 year plan for the catchment
- Working with the LDNP Partnership we are helping to tackle some of the most intractable challenges in how we balance the interests and needs of both communities and visitors in the Lake District
- The Esmee Fairbairn funded Collaboration Hub is enabling us to support communities in creative and innovative ways



# ACT staff



From TL: Lorraine, CEO; Hellen, Eden & Community Buildings; Jozi, Wellbeing and resilience; Carole, South Cumbria; Dani, Office Manager; Fran, Community Voice & CLH; Kieran, WaH!; Sam, WaH!



# Looking ahead



We will promote community voice in all we do and celebrate community action

- Supporting the development of We are Here! and WaH! citizens' assembly
- Delivering a national pilot, supporting communities buildings to be more sustainable
- Continuing our triage service for community buildings enquires and providing quality support
- Continuing to reduce our carbon footprint and helping those we work with to do the same





# Looking ahead



We will promote community voice in all we do and celebrate community action

- Promoting genuinely affordable local homes to sustain communities and local services
- Implementing research recommendations on people's appetite to travel sustainably in the Lake District
- Supporting community wellbeing for those most in need and working to alleviate rural poverty
- Using new tools to measure the social value of our work





# Financial Report



Alan McViety was High Sheriff this year and we were lucky to retain his skills as our treasurer. Alan said:

‘We have had a busy year with new projects and a reasonable out turn on the financial year, with a £25,431 surplus, which will be re-invested in supporting our core costs.

We continue with firm management of our resources and to maintain a sensible reserve to ensure our longterm delivery for rural Cumbria. Our staff are our major resource and we are proud to support them well. We will continue to build capacity to meet needs as they develop in these changing times.’



Alan McViety  
ACT Treasurer



# Financial Report



Charity Income	22/23	21/22	20/21
ACRE/DEFRA	50,165	52,765	51,068
Local authority service level agreements (SLAs)	26,750	45,800	43,850
Community Fund Fit for the Future, Fit for Funding	61,997	40,000	40,000
CLH Hub	9,000	16,000	49,110
Arts Council England	113,205	-	-
Other Grants and donations	55,940	37,101	37,547
Bank Interest	2,276	1,758	1,745
Miscellaneous	52,368	2,410	39,744
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>371,701</b>	<b>195,834</b>	<b>263,064</b>

Charity Costs	22/23	21/22	20/21
Staff costs	204,679	179,444	193,663
Direct project delivery	77,650	17,328	21,535
Travel	-	4,043	-
Premises, office and IT	38,221	36,255	37,715
Audit and legal	20,239	5,926	7,009
Membership	5,481	5,400	5,544
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>346,270</b>	<b>248,396</b>	<b>265,466</b>

ACT's funding mix is helping us work towards a sustainable financial future



# Funders





# Funders



The  
Hadfield  
Trust



electricity  
north west



acre | ACTION WITH  
COMMUNITIES  
IN RURAL ENGLAND



FSCT  
FRIEDA SCOTT CHARITABLE TRUST



# Feedback





# Feedback



‘ACT reminds us of the importance of engaging with communities on difficult topics, challenging our ‘business as usual’ practice and looking for ways to do things differently’

‘ACT’s attention to detail, knowledge and experience of working with community groups has proved invaluable, we hope this working relationship continues for many years to come’

‘Our trustees are immensely appreciative of ACT’s advice, reassurance and invaluable assistance’

‘ACT’s facilitation helps us move forward in ways that we couldn’t otherwise’

‘Cumbrian communities are very lucky to have such a team of talented and dedicated people’

‘Many thanks for everything you do to assist communities with their projects’

‘Thanks to the support and very knowledgeable advice from ACT we were successful in our funding bid’

‘ACT is a natural fit for us because of the extensive work they do, championing and supporting the community sector to become more sustainable, we are proud to be part of this’

‘I like working with ACT because they provide us with a unique insight into understanding the needs of rural communities’

‘ACT’s knowledge and experience of applying for grants and running a charitable enterprise adds a great deal of value to our work, running our community pools’



# 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](http://www.cumbriaaction.org.uk/about/join-us)



# ACTion with Communities in Cumbria



Thank you for watching  
our Annual Review!

Registered in England as:  
Voluntary Action Cumbria  
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Company No. 3957858



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