

ACTion with Communities in Cumbria

Annual Review 2019/20



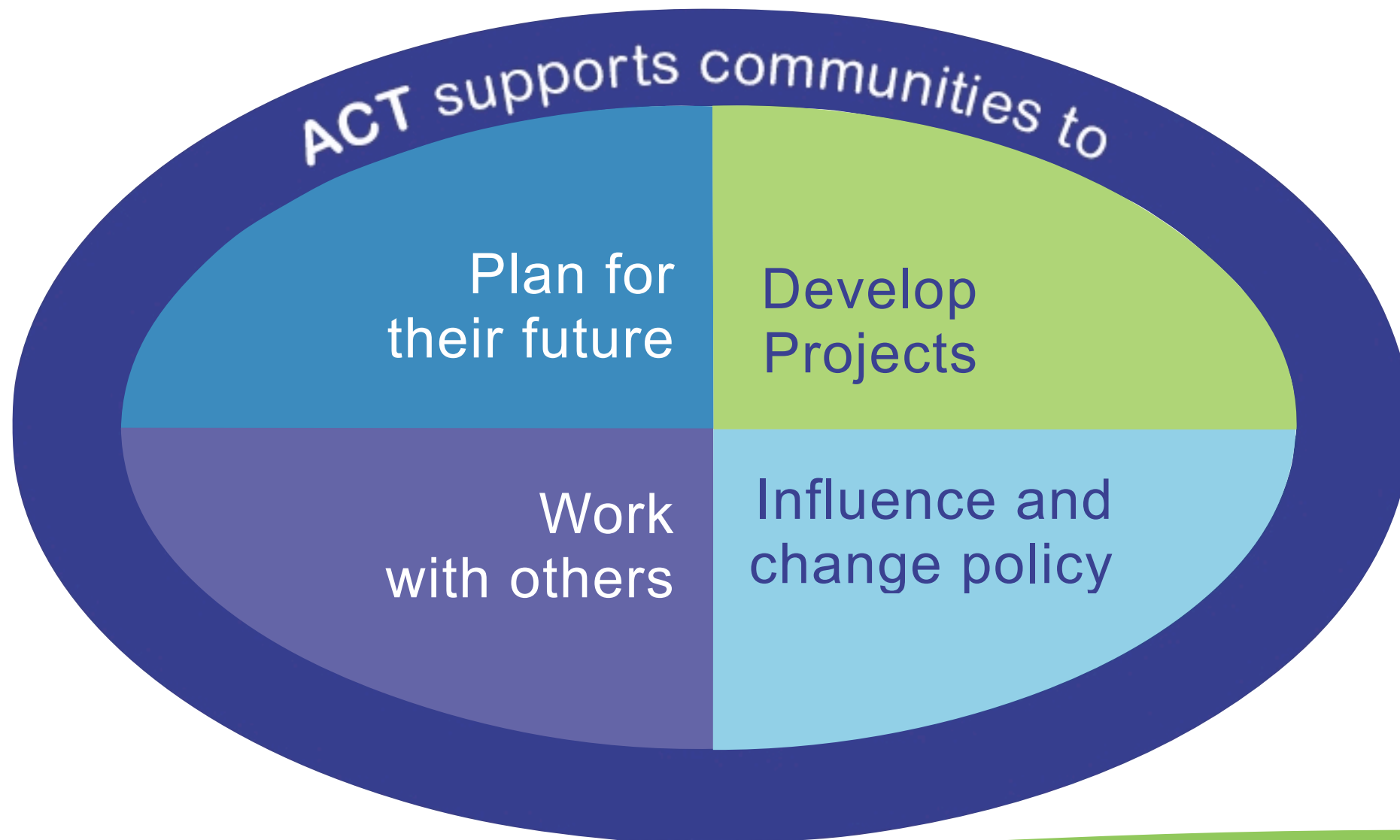
Welcome to our annual review!



ACT Trustees L to R: Jim Webster, Charles Ecroyd, Joanna Tate, Sam Bramwell, Lorraine Smyth CEO, Sue Castle-Clarke, Alan McViety, (not present: Liz Clegg & Ron Munby)

‘ACT goes from strength to strength as a small but expert community development organisation with a clear niche in Cumbria. Thank you to all our funders, supporters, partners and staff!’

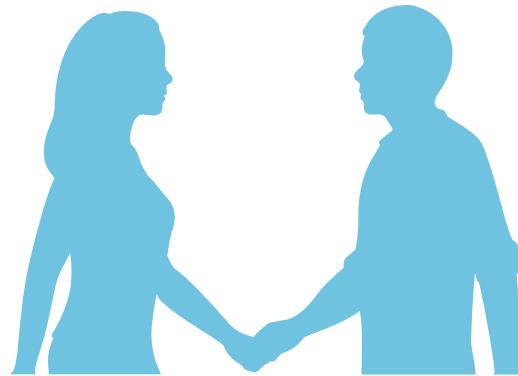
ACTion **with communities in Cumbria**
champions community and rural issues



The year in numbers



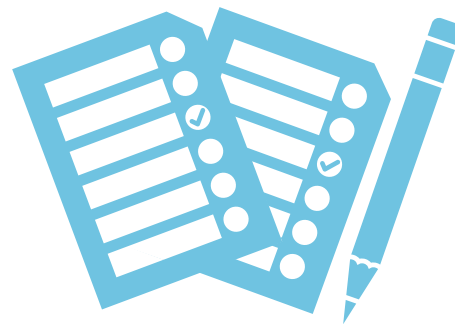
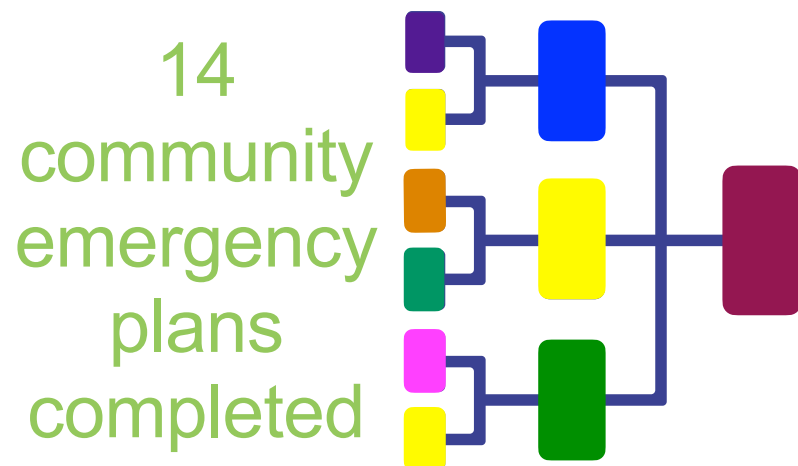
Secured for community buildings in Cumbria



37 Partnerships



292 village hall enquires



15 community led plans in development



12 Community businesses supported

The year in numbers



**Over 500
enquiries in total!**



Influencing and changing policy



Much of our partnership work is focussed on influencing and improving policy to support and build rural resilience

- Rebuilding Together was a 3-year, £1million program funded by the National Lottery Community Fund (Oct 2016-Sept 2020)
- This helped build the resilience of people, communities and organisations
- There was a focus on extreme weather events such as storms Desmond and Dennis



Influencing and changing policy



Much of our partnership work is focussed on influencing and improving policy to support and build rural resilience

- The program demonstrated the importance of flexibility from the funder and partners to achieve the overall goal
- In addition this work reaffirmed that relationships are as important as formal structures
- We have also supported Cumbria Neighbourhood Watch to offer free insurance to resilience groups



40 community emergency plans available to emergency services



We provided 152,000 households with information on emergency planning



We helped 177 communities discuss neighbourliness

Planning for the future



We support over 50 groups a year to develop and implement their plans

- Solway AONB reviewed their management plan and asked ACT to help with community consultation



Planning for the future



We support over 50 groups a year to develop and implement their plans

- Solway AONB reviewed their management plan and asked ACT to help with community consultation
- Postcards with an online survey link were sent to 4,800 local addresses
- We attended three public events to raise awareness



Planning for the future



We support over 50 groups a year to develop and implement their plans

- We also hosted a meeting with the 14 local Parish Councils
- Our activities raised awareness of the Solway AONB
- We engaged with over 150 people face-to-face and 239 online
- 84% of respondents were local residents, reflecting community views



Supporting project development



This year ACT has developed a community led housing hub and adopted a housing policy

- We ran a launch event with 15 community groups and 23 professionals
- Reached more than 250 individuals at self and custom build events (Lancaster and Eden)
- Provided support to 8 community led housing groups



Supporting project development



This year ACT has developed a community led housing hub and adopted a housing policy

- We believe that sustainable, vibrant communities have fair housing at their heart
- We support communities to take action on affordable, fit for purpose housing, which meets locally identifiable needs
- We will champion locally led housing development working with strategic partners to achieve scalable solutions



Supporting project development



Working with others



We are the recognised and trusted support service for community buildings across the county

- ACT began a three year partnership with the National Lottery Community fund, Fit for the Future, Fit for Funding
- Our village hall events continue to be popular and well attended



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- Our village hall events continue to be popular and well attended
- We helped set up the Cumbria Village Halls Network Facebook Group



Working with others



We are the recognised and trusted support service for community buildings across the county

- We joined Cumbrian village hall volunteers at the house of commons to celebrate national Village Halls Week
- Cumbrian Village Halls took part in the national 10-year halls survey run by ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England)



Working with others



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- We joined Cumbrian village hall volunteers at the house of commons to celebrate national Village Halls Week
- Cumbrian Village Halls took part in the national 10-year halls survey run by ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England)
- The Hallmark quality award is increasingly popular



ACT staff



Lorraine Smyth



Chief Executive

Dani Hall



Officer Manager

Julia Wilson



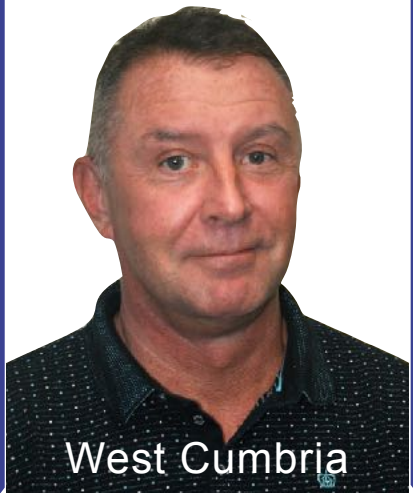
Development Manager

Hellen Aitken



Carlisle & Eden
Development Officer

Damien Morris



West Cumbria
Development Officer

Fran Richardson



CLH Hub Manager

Jemma Metcalfe-Gibson



South Cumbria
Project Officer

Katie Milburn



Support Officer

Bailey, Wellbeing Officer



Looking ahead



ACT will continue to support practical community initiatives while championing communities at strategic levels

- We will continue to support rural resilience through initiatives such as:
 - * Access and transport
 - * Income and poverty
 - * Sustainable Housing
 - * Neighbourliness
- Community buildings have never been more needed!

“Fountain of knowledge so that we don’t have to reinvent the wheel”

“You have been there for us over the past 10-12 years whenever we have needed you”

“ACT focusses on the local and what matters”

Looking ahead



ACT will continue to support practical community initiatives while championing communities at strategic levels

- We will support Covid-19 response and recovery at local and strategic levels
- The ACT team look to be working from home for the foreseeable future and are mastering online mediums
- We are busier than ever supporting communities through this challenging time

“The support was knowledgeable and comforting”

“Useful information and connections across Cumbria”

“Been invaluable in helping us through all the covid regulations”

Financial Report



Charity Income	19/20	18/19	17/18
ACRE/DEFRA	72,530	47,925	59,972
Local authority service level agreements (SLAs)	56,850	52,600	57,350
Big Lottery Rebuilding Together (through Cumbria CVS)	37,015	84,877	84,371
Community Fund Fit for the Future, Fit for Funding	40,000	-	-
CHL Hub	65,000	-	-
Other Grants and donations	35,926	59,325	8,000
Bank Interest	1,938	3,981	4,169
Miscellaneous	-	17,372	47,974
TOTAL	309,259	266,080	261,836

Charity Costs	19/20	18/19	17/18
Staff costs	181,317	160,968	163,598
Direct project delivery	59,848	38,126	38,711
Travel	5,611	10,237	9,477
Premises, office and IT	39,159	34,232	32,272
Audit and legal	6,675	7,089	6,687
Membership	4,835	4,260	4,260
TOTAL	297,445	254,912	255,005

Financial Report



- Continuing tight management means we have achieved another small surplus this year, alongside delivering a broad range of support across Cumbria.
- Funding challenges have increased, particularly for our core costs. This looks likely to continue given the challenges of Covid recovery. The year ahead, and beyond, will be challenging.
- We will continue to review all our costs while delivering and sustaining our services as effectively and efficiently as possible.



Alan McViety, ACT Treasurer

Funders



Funders



Well Whitehaven

The
Hadfield
Trust



defra
Department for Environment
Food and Rural Affairs



Thank you to all our funders!

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:
Voluntary Action Cumbria
Charity No. 1080875
Company No. 3957858



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