

ACTion with Communities in Cumbria

Annual Review 2020/21



Welcome to our annual review!



‘Our annual review this year celebrates the kindness and neighbourliness of communities over the last year

We have seen the strength and resilience of communities in Cumbria and we are proud to have supported their activities.

On behalf of the trustees I would like to thank all the staff for their hard work in a challenging time.

We look forward to continuing to work with communities in what we all hope will be a positive, kind, and neighbourly future.’



Joanna Tate
ACT Chairperson

Welcome to our annual review!



In June 2020 we ran the Plates of Kindness competition, we encouraged people to depict 'kindness on a plate' as we couldn't have the Big Lunch that we had planned due to the pandemic.

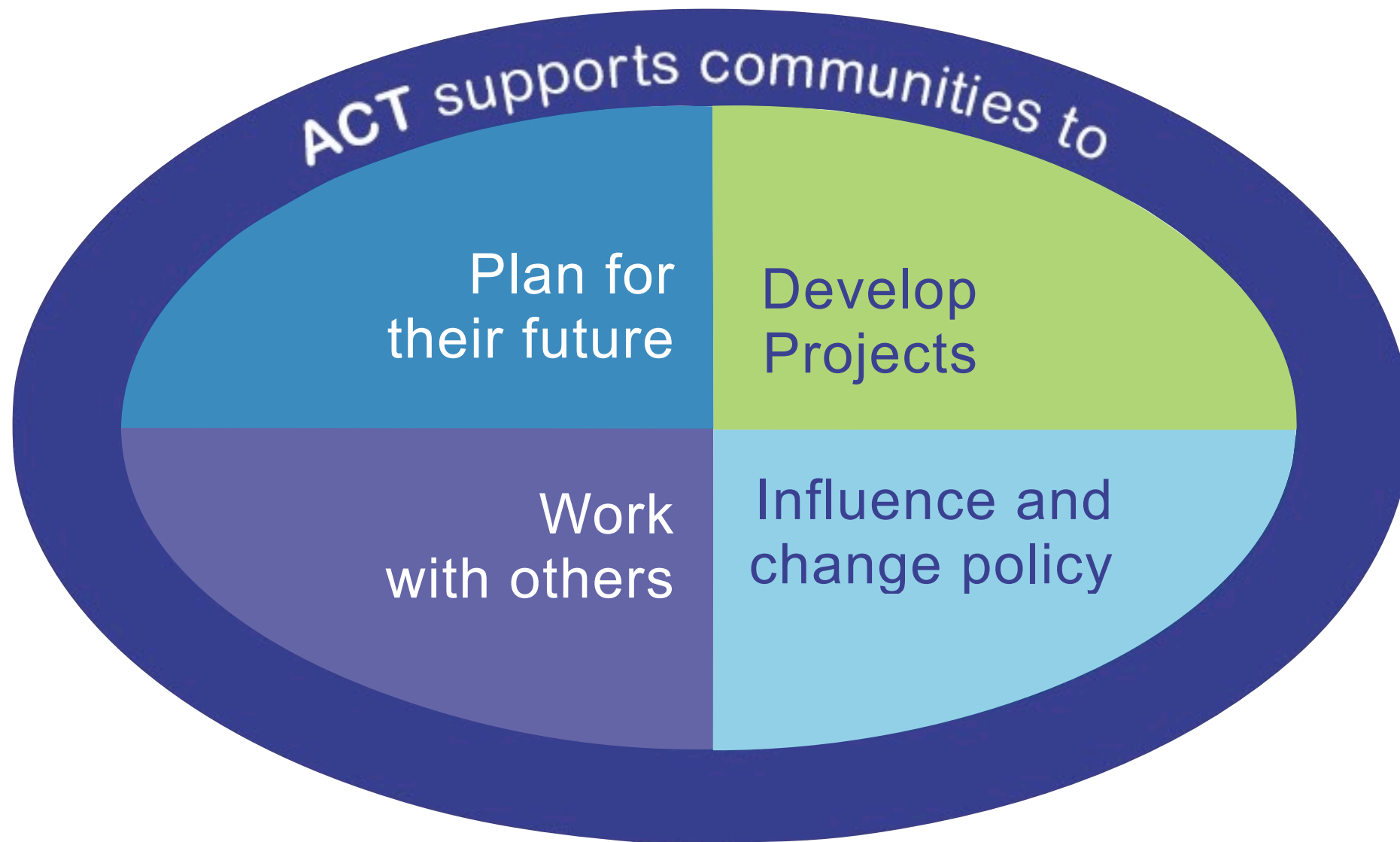
We have some of the winning plates throughout this year's annual review to highlight the theme of kindness and neighbourliness.

There were over one hundred excellent and creative entries in total which you can explore on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ACTCumbria/>



'Kindness catcher' by Elissa from Ulverston

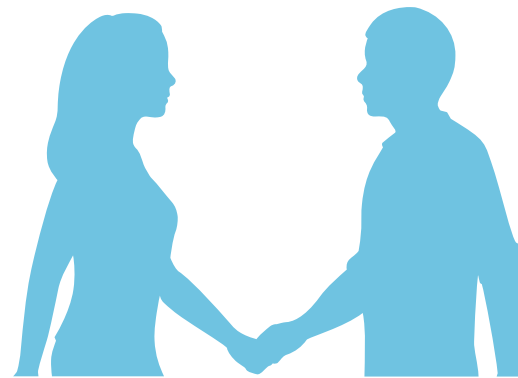
ACTion **with communities in Cumbria**
champions community and rural issues



The year in numbers



Secured for community buildings in Cumbria

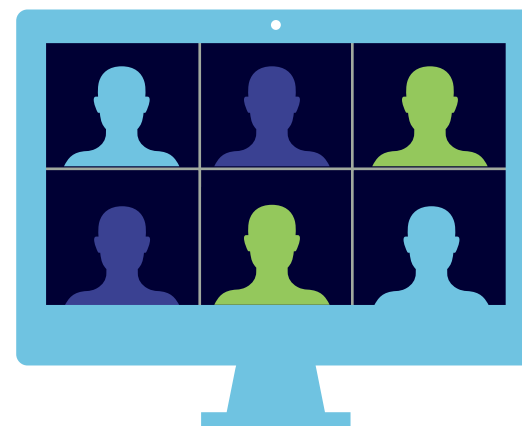


28 Partnerships



481 community building enquiries

Assisted 35 community led housing groups



Delivered 29 online support events



30 Covid-19 regulation updates and advice

The year in numbers



**Over 650
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

- Our work has led to a statement on Community Led Housing being included in the Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Housing Strategy
- 'The community led model has real traction in small sites, providing an alternative to larger strategic schemes... It would be positive to see more of these schemes in Cumbria.' (CHSG Task Group)



'Time to be kind' by Yvie from Ulverston

Influencing and changing policy



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

- Working with the Lake District National Park Partnership, action plans on housing and sustainable transport have been developed.
- Communities informed these plans through substantial consultation and local engagement supported by ACT.
- We shall continue to work with the partnership on the implementation of these plans to ensure that they deliver for communities.



‘Kindness matters’ video by Grace from Gosforth

Planning for the future



We support communities to develop and implement their plans

Our work with community buildings is a key part of assisting communities and this year we provided:

- Responses to 481 enquiries on Covid-19 restrictions, governance and funding
- 17 mailings to over 300 groups with advice and information
- Eight online events with 398 participants!



‘Cumbrian kindness’ by Katie from Penrith

Planning for the future



We support communities to develop and implement their plans

ACT's Community Led Housing Hub has supported:

- A housing festival, with six events on: affordability; reclaiming empty homes; solutions for older people; business planning; and development and partnership opportunities.
- 15 local groups to progress their plans and nine groups to regularly benefit from a peer support network



‘Rockin’ Eli-Funky’ by Elwood from Brigham

Supporting project development



Many of the projects we supported this year were in response to the pandemic

The Neighbourliness Works project supported:

- The 'Plates of Kindness' Competition which had over a hundred entries
- Community resilience and Covid response groups
- And created resources for communities to continue their kind and neighbourly activities



'Shower the world in kindness'
by Laura from Ulveston

Supporting project development



Many of the projects we supported this year were in response to the pandemic

Our community buildings work supported:

- Five applications to the National Lottery's Community Fund
- The Village Halls' Facebook Group which has over 200 members
- 100 community buildings to access £1million of financial support for Covid impacts



‘Trio of tractors, giving farmers a helping hand’ by Archie from Berrier

Working with others

Communities are good at doing things for themselves but we can support them to have more impact by working with others

Sustainable transport continues to be a key area of partnership work:

- Our new partner, Cumbria Mobility Network became a registered charity
- We successfully nominated Fell Runner Community Bus for a Queen's Award for Volunteering
- Working with Cumbria County Council and health providers, we produced guidance for community transport operators during Covid



‘Kindness in Sign-Language’
by Mike from Barrow

Working with others



Communities are good at doing things for themselves but we can support them to have more impact by working with others

Our neighbourliness work includes personal and community resilience activities:

- Our Kind Cumbria social media campaign was a great success, reaching over 44,000 people across Cumbria
- Working with the County Council and other partners, area resilience meetings helped communities respond to the pandemic
- We helped Natural England explore nature recovery through poetry with communities on the Solway.



‘Throw kindness like confetti’
by Lauren from Portinscale

ACT staff



Looking ahead



ACT will continue to support communities as we recover from the pandemic

- We will support communities to address the opportunities and challenges of zero carbon for rural areas
- We will continue to advocate for community led housing, strategically and locally
- We will work with the Lake District National Park Partnership on sustainable transport opportunities



‘Plates of produce’ by Esther and William from Renwick

Looking ahead



ACT will continue to support communities as we recover from the pandemic

- Our artistic advisor, Stefan Escreet is helping us to bring arts and culture activities into our work
- Our Neighbourliness Network will continue to provide peer support to communities
- Longer term sustainability for community buildings will be a priority



‘Kindness costs nothing’ by Mia from Ulverston

Financial Report



It has been a very challenging year for everyone in many ways, and this shows in our accounts, with a small loss of £2,402. Due to Covid-19 restrictions a number of our funding agreements were carried forward into 2021/22, which means that some core costs in 20/21 were not covered.

We used Furlough to support our staff and to manage some of our costs and the staff team worked hard to bring in new income and to deliver in new ways, where that was possible.

We anticipate a challenging year next year, but due to tight management, considerable efforts from the staff team, and careful management of our reserves we are secure for at least the next 18 months.



Alan McViety
ACT Treasurer

Financial Report



Charity Income	20/21	19/20	18/19
ACRE/DEFRA	51,068	72,530	47,925
Local authority service level agreements (SLAs)	43,850	56,850	52,600
Community Fund Fit for the Future, Fit for Funding	40,000	40,000	-
CLH Hub	49,110	65,000	-
Other Grants and donations	37,547	35,926	59,325
Bank Interest	1,745	1,938	3,981
Miscellaneous	39,744	37,015	17,372
TOTAL	263,064	309,259	266,080

Charity Costs	20/21	19/20	18/19
Staff costs	193,663	181,317	160,968
Direct project delivery	21,535	59,848	38,126
Travel	-	5,611	10,237
Premises, office and IT	37,715	39,159	34,232
Audit and legal	7,009	6,675	7,089
Membership	5,544	4,835	4,260
TOTAL	265,466	297,445	254,912

Funders



Department for
Communities and
Local Government



Funders



Well Whitehaven



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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