

Hello!

Welcome to our August Newsletter, with more information about help for households as energy costs rise this winter. Our Spotlight is on Climate Change Action with offers of funding and support for communities and organisations wanting to make a difference, as well as links to our own ACT resources. The Blog this month takes a look at the growth of the unregulated holiday homes sector and the impact it has on our communities.

Don't forget to 'save the date' for our next Community Buildings event on Sat 17 Sept.

The ACT Blog: Homes for residents or visitors?



The government is consulting on [proposed regulation of 'tourist accommodation'](#). Significant growth in holiday lets reduces our capacity to house local families and workers. We believe that change is needed; the planning system should be equipped to protect housing assets for people who need homes. It is the main tool we have to stop the drift towards rural villages dominated by short-term lets, and non-permanent residents.

Comment from Fran Richardson, ACT Lead Housing Advisor.

The ACT Blog

News from ACT



Places to Talk - bringing people together to share Covid stories

A new project led by Cumbria County Council will help people across Cumbria to come together and have a 'place to talk' about their experiences of living through the Covid-19 pandemic and to share their hopes for the future. A series of short films has been produced to help start local conversations. Read more [here](#) and see how to apply for support.

Let's look at it differently

We are always keen to help communities use new ways to have conversations about what matters to them. Our recent project, [using poetry](#) as part of our work with Natural England and Solway AONB is a great example. Right now we have some extra resource to support you if you're interested in looking at [community planning](#) a bit differently. [Find out more.](#)



Sustainable Summer Travel

A Sustainable Summer Travel poster that has been created in discussion with the Sustainable Transport Group for Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership, to help us travel smarter. The downloadable poster is available [here](#). It's really worth looking at the car-free travel options being supported this year in the National Park [here](#).

Please share these messages with colleagues, partner organisations and friends through your networks.

Community Buildings News

Community Buildings Event - Save the Date - Saturday 17 Sept, 10am - 12.00

Our usual Community Buildings event covering a range of topics. This time we'll be hearing from Becky Coleman at 'Easyfundraising' about a simple way everyone in your community can fundraise for your hall by doing their usual online shopping, at no extra cost! Further details coming soon.



National quality awards and refurbishments completed during Covid

Volunteer committees worked hard throughout Covid restrictions improving their village hall charities, refurbishing their buildings and achieving [national quality awards](#) for governance. We celebrated at our sunny [Community Buildings event](#) at Newbiggin Village Hall last month.

ACRE Village Hall Energy survey

There have been a number of survey requests in recent months but this one could make a real difference to your hall and others. The ACRE Energy survey, in partnership with Utility Aid, is essential to evidence the energy issues facing community buildings today. Please use the surveymonkey link [here](#) by 30 Sept.



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Spotlight on Local Climate Change Action

An important part of ACT's work is helping communities prepare for the future. Increasingly, communities want to take local action to address the changing climate. Tell us about your plans and what you're doing, so we can share. To get you thinking, we have a case study on the [Greening Initiative](#), guidance on [community car share](#) schemes and the new [Sustainable Summer Travel](#) poster for more tips.



[Get in touch](#) if you want to know more, or if you'd like us to share something from your community. We'd love to hear from you!

Greening Staveley Case Study

Grants available for Great Big Green Week events

Community groups can be awarded up to £300 to host community events during [Great Big Green Week](#) 24 September – 2 October 2022. The week is coordinated by the [Climate Coalition](#) as a way of raising awareness of climate change and getting more people involved in taking action. Read more from Cumbria Action for Sustainability and access the application form [here](#). Applications by 2 Sept.



Become Green Together

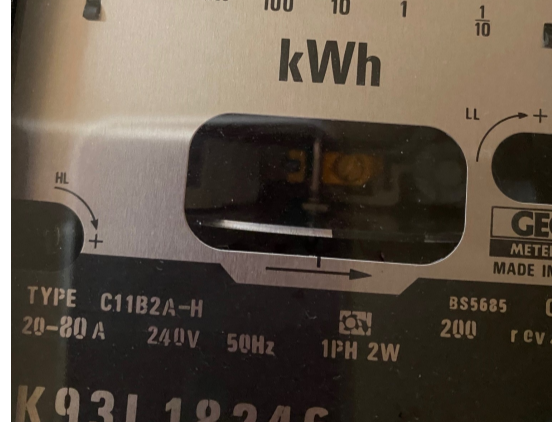
Become Green Together is open for applications. Community organisations in the North East and Cumbria can receive subsidised training, the support of environmental specialists, and peer support to make their working practices greener.

[Apply for subsidised support](#) and go greener together!

News from Friends and Partners

Energy Rebate for Households

The government is providing a package of support the the [Energy Support Scheme](#) to help deal with rising energy bills.



Through the Scheme, domestic electricity customers in Great Britain will receive a £400 grant which will appear as a credit from energy suppliers from October 2022 onwards. This will not need to be repaid.

[Cumbria County Council](#) has links to advice and support for people struggling with the Cost of Living.



Highlight hidden gems to celebrate local heritage

The National Park Authority is inviting residents and visitors to highlight the special buildings, sites and features that make the Lake District special and should be celebrated.

A new campaign, designed to help protect the 'commonplace or everyday' heritage assets that are valued by people locally, but don't have any existing protection in their own right under planning law is now live in the Lake District. Find out more about the Local List and how to register a special place [here](#).



Safeguarding Adults Week

Safeguarding Adults Week is a time to raise awareness of important safeguarding issues. Each day of the week we will [focus on a different safeguarding theme](#) to explore how we can respond to contemporary safeguarding challenges.

There is also useful up to date guidance from [Cumbria Community Foundation](#) about safeguarding more generally.

Third Sector Trends in Cumbria 2022

This long-term study on voluntary and community organisations, social enterprises, cooperatives, societies and clubs (the 'third sector' or 'VCSE' sector) started in 2010. A lot has happened since we last did the survey in 2019. Access the survey through [Durham University](#) to help us understand current trends and changes.



Extra Care Register from Electricity North West Ltd

The Priority Services Register from ENWL is now called the **Extra Care Register**. For more information and to register yourself or a family member, use [this link](#).

Business Priority Services Register (BPSR) will also be changed to **Business Extra Care Register** (BECR) to ensure consistency.

And finally...

If you find this information useful, please do share it with others. We'd love you to forward this email to friends and colleagues. You can also follow us on Facebook or Twitter to keep up with our very latest news and views.

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