

**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 and plan for. Be prepared for it to take time, it could take several years to achieve some actions.**

## Where to start

Send your completed Community Led Plan, to everyone that could help you achieve your actions. Add to contacts you've made when doing your plan by asking if there are any further local authority officers, agencies etc. with resources or expertise to help you. Make contact and also send them a copy of your Plan.

Decide who is going to oversee and deliver the Plan. Responsibility for overseeing the Plan often passes to the Parish or Town Council, as the CLP Steering Group winds up and individual local groups take responsibility for delivery of appropriate actions. The Annual Parish meeting is a good opportunity to review and publicise progress.

## Getting Help

Local Authorities may be able to help with some of your actions, with grant aid or other assistance. If you haven't already established good links with the relevant officers when doing your plan, now is the time to do so.

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

ACT has a wide range of authority, agency and community contacts, plus written and video case studies and other information, which may be useful. Get in touch to see how we could help.



*Photo: Affordable housing in Crosby Ravensworth, an action from the Lyvennet Valley Community Plan*

### Who's going to oversee delivery of the plan?

- Parish / Town Council or continuation of the CLP Steering Group?
- The annual parish meeting is a good opportunity to review progress.

### 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 and longer term strategic projects.
- Keep people informed about progress and provide opportunities to get involved.

## 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 together to work 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 will be the responsibility of the Parish / Town Council, or the main delivery group(s). Some actions could be passed to new or other existing community groups.

For example, an action to improve play facilities could prompt parents to set up a new group to raise funds and plan the project. Improvements to a village hall will be the responsibility of the hall's existing management committee. Actions in the Plan about the hall can help to attract new volunteers to join the committee or to help out in other ways, such as organising fundraising events.

"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:

- **Tackle simple projects or 'quick wins' early on to boost confidence.**

Research shows about half of the actions in Community Led Plans are those that that communities can tackle on their own, without outside help, and these are usually easier to get going. Other actions are more strategic, involve working with local authorities and other organisations, and often take longer. It helps to have a good mix of these to see progress!

- **Keep the wider community informed of progress.**

Communicate and celebrate achievements and try to feature them in the local media. Your annual parish meeting is an ideal opportunity to review progress and help to keep the plan 'alive'.

- **Recruit new volunteers and encourage them to take on responsibilities.**

You may find people who are enthusiastic about a particular issue or project and are willing to get involved, even if they're less interested in the rest of the plan.

## More information

Contact us at ACT for support (details below) and visit our website for further information and a range of resources, guidance sheets, case studies and other information to support communities: [www.cumbriaaction.org.uk](http://www.cumbriaaction.org.uk)

Cumbria CVS offers help, advice, training and support to third sector groups in Cumbria: [cumbriacvs.org.uk](http://cumbriacvs.org.uk)

Cumbria Association of Local Councils 'Find a Parish Council' search contains Clerk contact details: [www.calc.org.uk](http://www.calc.org.uk)

**For more information please contact ACTion with Communities in Cumbria on Tel: 01768 425 666 or visit our website: [www.cumbriaaction.org.uk](http://www.cumbriaaction.org.uk)**

## ACT champions community and rural issues

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