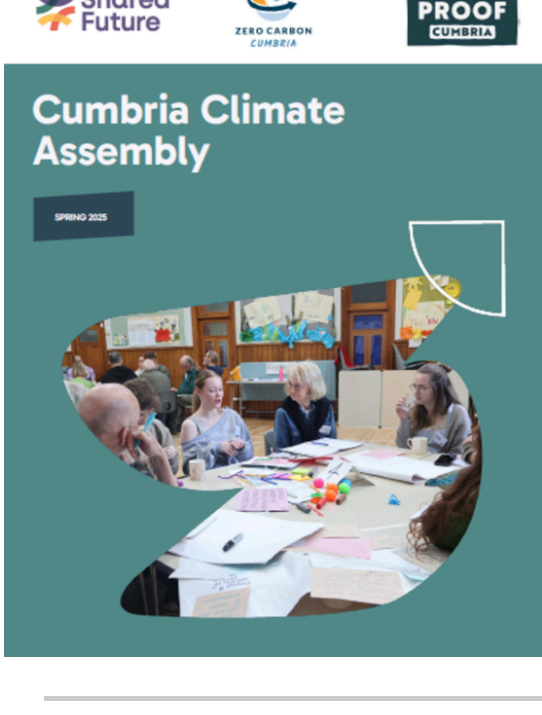


Hello! Lots of interesting and useful stuff below. We welcome any [feedback](#) and would love to know what you would like to see in future news. **Hold the date for ACT Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Friday 24 October** at Preston Patrick Village Hall, with an option to join us online. We'll be celebrating community successes, as always, and discussing why Local Plans are so important to communities. Join us to show your support, share your own story and learn from others. Booking soon on the ACT website.

News from ACT



Cumbria Climate Assembly report and recommendations now available

'Many people in Cumbria feel unheard and unable to influence those who make decisions on climate change action. What can be done about this?'

ACT has been involved in the recent Climate Assembly, working on the Advisory group to support 44 people from around the county to explore this question of decision making and impactful citizen engagement.

Read the [full report here](#), on the [Shared Future CIC](#) website and see how you can support their thoughtful recommendations, which truly champion putting people at the heart of decisions that affect them.

Celebrating Cumbrian communities in 2025 - FINAL CALL for submissions!

Tell us what you are doing in your community that makes life better for the people who live there. It can be a new project, or something you've been doing for some time. You can tell us about it on the [really simple form here](#).

Categories your work might fit in include transport, housing, community planning and community buildings. We'd love to hear from you if your work doesn't fit these four, or covers more than one category too!

We will share your successes in the press, on our website, on the radio, in case studies and at our AGM on Friday 24 October. So please [get in touch](#) by Monday 14 July if you have something you want to shout about.



Planning for your future through the Local Plan

As part of our Collaboration Hub and [Community Voice](#) work with the [Lake District National Park Partnership](#) we are offering to support communities to engage fully with the revision of the Lake District National Park [Local Plan](#). This plan will set out a large extent what will be built and where in the National Park for the next two decades, so it's worth getting involved. [Get in touch](#) if you're interested.

We're trying something new! ACT is offering eight Lake District communities a chance to feed in to Local Plan development, **before** it reaches statutory consultation.

It does not matter how much you know about the current Local Plan. If you would like to be one of these communities please [let us know](#).

"Have fun, find joy and be together!"

Watch [this fantastic video celebration](#) of one year of the Jury for Joy!

[Everyone Here](#) is the Creative People and Places programme funded by the Arts Council in West Cumbria. Our team take a community development approach, building community capacity and identity through creative activities - what this project is all about.



Community Buildings News



ACTion with communities in cumbria Community Buildings Event

Community Buildings Event
When: Saturday 19 July, 10am – 12 noon
Venue: Online
Topic: 'Fire Safety in Village Halls'

Lucy Johnston, Fire Protection Advisor at Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service, will be joining us to present and answer your questions about Fire Safety in Village Halls. [Book your free place here](#).



Platinum Jubilee Village Halls Fund

Grants of between £7,500 and £75,000 are available for up to 20% of eligible costs for capital improvement works. Funded projects need to be able to complete work by March 2026 at the latest. To apply, submit your stage one application as soon as possible to assess your project's eligibility. ACT will then work with you to submit a stage two application. [Read more](#)

Legionnaires' disease – what you must do

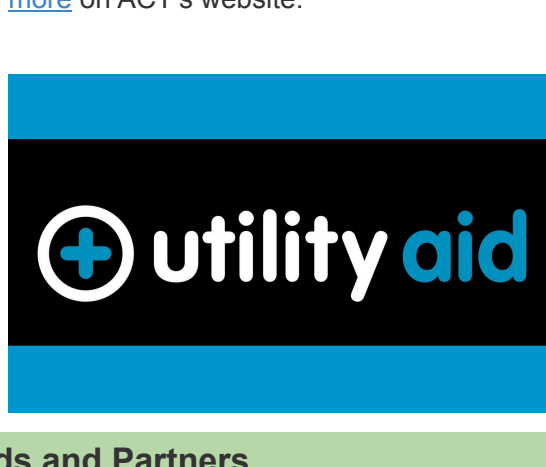
Legionnaires' disease is a potentially fatal type of pneumonia, contracted by inhaling airborne water droplets containing viable legionella bacteria. Employers and those in charge of premises are responsible for health and safety and need to take the right precautions to reduce the risks of exposure to legionella. Read [HSE's guide](#) which outlines what you must do. This was also the subject of a recent episode of [The Village Halls Podcast](#)



easyfundraising sent over £3.5m in funding to community organisations so far this year, raised for free from volunteers and supporters doing their normal online shopping. This summer, another £1million will be paid out and your organisation can be part of it by setting up your free easyfundraising page here: [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/act](#) or [read more](#) on ACT's website.

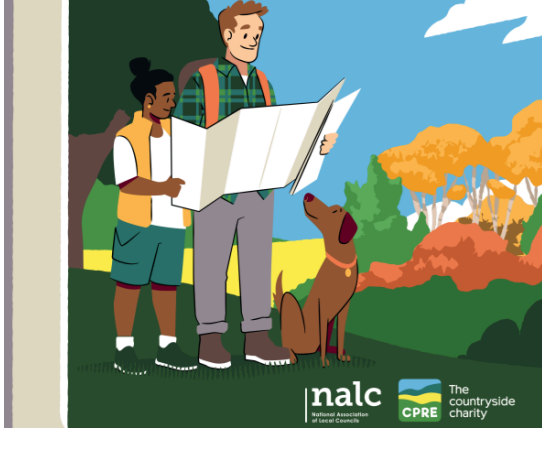
Utility Aid

Utility Aid, the UK's leading utility broker for the charity and not for profit sector, has recovered £651,369.30 for customers so far this year, through its Invoice Validation Service. The breakdown for recoveries made in May were:
Incorrect VAT £101,276.71;
Consecutive Estimates £4,574.34;
Double billed £2,777.31;
Incorrect Tariff £111.50.



[Read more](#) about how Utility Aid could help your charity.

News from Friends and Partners



NALC and CPRE launch a new guide to planning for the public

The first update to our much-loved planning guidance for the public has been published today by Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) and the National Association of Local Councils (NALC).

The revamped guide '[How to respond to planning applications](#)' is the go-to starting point for anyone who wants to understand – and have a say in – what gets built in their local area.

Rural Retail Report from Plunkett UK

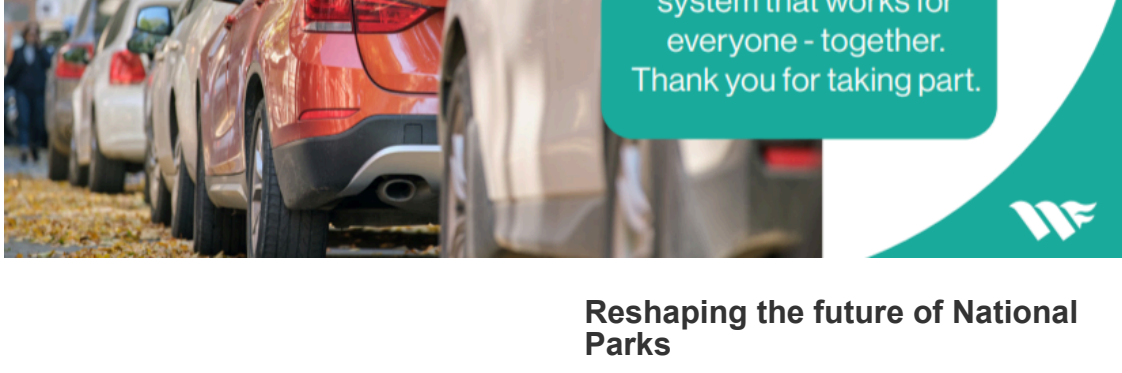
We hope you enjoy [the report](#) and that it inspires, informs and assists you in thinking through future plans for your own business.



Remember, Plunkett UK is here to listen to and support you, so do get in touch if you need assistance, or if you'd like to share your plans with us.

Shape the future of parking in Westmorland and Furness

Join the Community Conversation to help Westmorland and Furness Council deliver better parking services. You can take [the short survey here](#). Paper copies are available at Westmorland and Furness Council Libraries, Local Links and Public Buildings. Survey closes Friday 18 July.



Reshaping the future of National Parks

[Join our campaign](#) to reshape National Park governance, for nature, social justice and future generations. Last year the UK Government committed to making new laws to reform how English National Parks are governed. The Welsh Government has committed to an 'exemplar' National Park in north east Wales with a new governance model. We're determined to hold them to these promises.

Northern Customer and Community Improvement Fund

Projects to reduce social isolation and help people become integrated into their local communities, delivered within 10 miles of a Northern Trains' station, depot or TrainCare Centre location, can apply for grants of between £2,500 and £20,000 from the [Northern Customer and Community Improvement Fund](#). Application deadline is 23.59 on Friday 18 July 2025.



Identity Verification: Changes to UK company law

Companies House will introduce a new identity verification process to help deter those wishing to use companies for illegal purposes.

Anyone setting up, running, owning or controlling a company in the UK will need to verify their identity to prove they are who they claim to be. [Read the guidance on verifying your identity for Companies House](#).

We have included this information in our newsletter because a number of people have asked us if it's a scam - it's not!

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 to keep up with our very latest news and views.

If you are not already an ACT supporter, why not join us? It's free and it means that we can keep in touch with you directly from time to time. You can [unsubscribe](#) at any time from all ACT mailings.

[Become a Supporter](#)

