



Join us to be part of supporting community action across Cambridgeshire

For more than a century Cambridgeshire ACRE has helped rural communities across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to flourish. Membership connects you to that legacy, ensures you are part of a wider network shaping the county's rural future and provides some specific benefits for you.

What membership does for you:

Your membership matters because it gives you direct access to trusted advice, practical support and a team that understands rural challenges. It helps you save time, solve problems quickly and feel confident in your decisions. Most importantly, it strengthens your community by ensuring you have the tools and knowledge you need to thrive.

What membership gives you:

- Telephone and email advice from our experienced team
- Online members' network with shared learning and practical resources
- Monthly Staying in Touch newsletter with rural updates, funding alerts and training opportunities
- Priority invitations to training, workshops and networking events
- Regular funding updates tailored to community needs
- Discounts on consultancy and bespoke training services
- Opportunities to promote your work through member spotlights and case studies
- Voting rights at our Annual General Meeting
- A voice in shaping rural policy and advocacy through Cambridgeshire ACRE's partnerships and representation work

Membership means being part of a movement that's making a tangible difference, creating stronger, greener and better-connected rural places.



From a small acorn planted in 1924, Cambridgeshire ACRE has grown into a substantial oak tree with roots in every corner of rural life.

If you are a parish or town council

Benefits for parish or town

- 1:1 advice and consultancy on parish plans, community projects and funding applications
- Support to manage and protect your community's assets, including playing fields, open spaces and community buildings (with specialist advice for those acting as custodian trustee)
- Templates and toolkits covering procurement, asset management and resilience planning (coming Spring 2026!)
- Training and peer learning for clerks and councillors, both online and in person
- Support on housing, planning and community-led development



CASE STUDY

Swavesey Parish Council has benefitted from Cambridgeshire ACRE's support in several areas. The council received advice on village hall management, rural housing and biodiversity projects and attended events such as those hosted by the New Life on the Old West project. Cambridgeshire ACRE's guidance was instrumental in their Neighbourhood Plan process and in connecting the council with other community groups. This ongoing relationship has helped Swavesey Parish Council strengthen community engagement and deliver successful local initiatives.

Many parish and town councils also own or manage community buildings. Where that's the case, membership gives access to all the additional benefits available to both councils and community facilities.

MEMBER QUOTE

Duxford Parish Council cannot recommend Cambs ACRE enough to other parish councils."

Joanne Depradines-Smith,
Clerk



If you run a community building or village hall

Benefits for community buildings and village halls

- Specialist helpline for trustees and managers of community facilities
- Training and governance support through the Futureproofing Cambridgeshire's Community Buildings programme
- Access to ACRE's national information sheets and templates
- Comprehensive resource bank with policies, compliance checklists and governance guides
- Inclusion in the Halls for Hire online directory to promote your venue
- Hallmark quality accreditation support and a simplified toolkit
- Energy audits and sustainability advice, including guidance on decarbonisation and retrofit funding
- Peer mentoring and networking for trustees and committees
- Guidance on fundraising and income diversification



CASE STUDY

Buckden Village Hall sought advice from Cambridgeshire ACRE to improve energy efficiency and governance. With support, the hall installed a new heating system, enhanced recycling facilities and pursued Hallmark Accreditation. The committee benefitted from guidance on policy reviews and financial

management, ensuring compliance and sustainability. Regular engagement with Cambridgeshire ACRE's resources and newsletters helped the hall stay informed about funding opportunities and best practices, directly contributing to its operational resilience and community impact.

MEMBER QUOTE

"I think Cambridgeshire ACRE deliver a brilliant service and always give sound advice and prompt service."

**Sonia Walsh,
Fordham Victoria Hall**





The difference we make

Our story so far



Founded in 1924 to strengthen rural life after the First World War



Supported the creation and sustainability of hundreds of village halls and community spaces



Facilitated thousands of affordable rural homes, giving local people the chance to stay in the places they love



Driven innovation in community energy, wellbeing and inclusion



United volunteers, councils and partners to deliver practical change across Cambridgeshire

Our impact this year

148

community buildings supported through expert advice, governance and training

37,700

visits made to community hubs and living rooms

16

parish councils supported to progress rural housing and neighbourhood planning projects

£936,000

of external funding secured for rural communities

29

new affordable homes delivered on rural exception sites

33

volunteer lock wardens protecting local rivers and habitats

£25,000

of fuel debt cleared for vulnerable residents

Why your membership matters

Your membership not only gives you practical support but also sustains our wider work helping hundreds of rural communities every year. Together we're shaping a fairer, more sustainable and better-connected Cambridgeshire.

Membership from £74.50 per year



01353 860850



enquiries@camsacre.org.uk



www.camsacre.org.uk/membership