



Community engagement and facilitation

Helping you involve residents meaningfully to gather clear, usable evidence

Good engagement starts with clarity

When you are planning change, shaping policy or responding to local concern, how you involve people matters.

At Cambridgeshire ACRE, we design and deliver structured engagement processes that help you listen well, involve residents meaningfully and turn lived experience into clear, defensible evidence.

We work with organisations of all sizes, from small rural parishes to county wide partnerships, tailoring our approach to your scale and context.

How we can support you

Our support is flexible and proportionate. We can help with:

- Designing engagement and consultation strategies
- Facilitating workshops, visioning sessions and community conversations
- Independent chairing where issues are sensitive or complex
- Survey design, distribution and analysis
- Combining digital and face to face engagement
- Collating feedback into clear reports and consultation statements
- Turning community insight into practical recommendations

You might need a single facilitated session or a fully designed engagement programme. We can support both.

Why Cambridgeshire ACRE

Cambridgeshire ACRE designs proportionate, structured engagement that turns lived experience into clear, defensible evidence, with a transparent audit trail that stands up to scrutiny.

Rooted in rural Cambridgeshire and independent of local politics, we combine professional facilitation with a practical understanding of rural realities, helping organisations reach beyond the usual voices and make better-informed decisions.

From conversation to shared direction

When supporting a parish council at the early stages of a Neighbourhood Plan, we analysed survey responses and then facilitated structured workshops to explore strengths, weaknesses and future priorities.

Discussions were carefully guided to ensure quieter voices were heard and that feedback was recorded transparently. The outcome was a clear draft vision and framework, backed by documented evidence and a strong audit trail of community involvement.

This structured, evidence led approach underpins all our engagement work.



Why rural engagement needs care

Rural communities have distinct characteristics that shape how engagement should be designed.

We understand:

- The importance of trust and local history
- The impact of transport and digital exclusion
- The need to reach beyond the usual voices
- The balance between development, environment and identity
- The realities facing parish councils and volunteer led organisations

Because we are rooted in rural Cambridgeshire, we bring both professional facilitation skills and a deep understanding of place.



Who we work with

We work with:

- Parish and town councils
- Charities and voluntary organisations
- Community buildings and trusts
- Social enterprises
- Rural partnerships and networks
- Statutory agencies

Start a conversation

Hayley Neal
Chief Executive
Cambridgeshire ACRE

Tel: 01353 865034
Email: hayley.neal@camsacre.org.uk
Web: www.camsacre.org.uk/what-we-do/offering-consultancy/