



Community led housing support

Helping communities deliver the affordable homes local residents need.

The challenge

Many rural communities are facing increasing housing pressures. Rising house prices and limited availability mean that young people, families and key workers can struggle to remain in the places where they live and work.

Community-led housing offers a practical solution. By putting local people at the centre of development, communities can create homes that meet local needs and protect affordability for future generations.

Cambridgeshire ACRE provides practical support to communities, parish councils and local partners who want to explore or deliver community-led housing. From early conversations through to project delivery, our team helps turn local ambition into achievable projects.

Community-led housing can take many forms including Community Land Trusts, cohousing, housing cooperatives and group self-build, but they all share one key principle: homes shaped by the community for long term local benefit.

Our support

Bringing forward a community-led housing project requires careful planning, strong partnerships and clear evidence of need.

Cambridgeshire ACRE provides independent, practical support to help communities move from an initial idea to a deliverable project.

Our support can include:

- Facilitating early discussions with parish councils and community groups
- Helping establish Community Land Trusts or other governance structures
- Designing and delivering Housing Needs Surveys to evidence local demand
- Running community engagement and consultation events
- Supporting site identification and early feasibility work
- Connecting groups with housing associations, developers and technical advisors
- Supporting funding applications and project planning

Whether a community is just starting to explore options or already developing a project, we can provide tailored support at every stage.

Case study: Great Staughton Community Land Trust

Great Staughton in rural Huntingdonshire faced a long-term shortage of affordable housing, driven by the loss of public housing stock and rising market prices that have priced local people out of the village.

In response, the Parish Council helped establish Great Staughton Community Land Trust (CLT) to bring forward a community-led solution.

Cambridgeshire ACRE supported the CLT at a critical stage by helping it to navigate the funding landscape and access financial support from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA). This included advice on developing a robust proposal, clarifying eligibility and aligning the project with CPCA priorities for community-led housing.

This support strengthened the CLT's ability to secure the investment needed to move the scheme forward.

Planning permission was granted for 12 social and affordable homes, including shared ownership and social rent properties prioritised for people with local connections. The development represented a significant step towards sustaining the village's community and facilities.



Why Cambridgeshire ACRE

Our team combines community engagement expertise with specialist housing knowledge and strong relationships with local authorities, housing associations and national partners.

We understand the opportunities and challenges facing rural communities and provide trusted support to help projects move forward.

Cambridgeshire ACRE members receive 10 per cent discount on consultancy services.



Start a conversation

If your community is interested in exploring community-led housing, we would be happy to discuss how we can help.

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