



Training and development for community organisations

Helping community groups, charities and parish councils build the skills and knowledge they need to succeed

The challenge

Strong communities depend on capable, confident people. Whether you are volunteers managing a village hall, a parish council developing new ideas, or a community group starting a new initiative, having the right skills and knowledge makes a real difference.

Cambridgeshire ACRE provides practical training and tailored learning sessions designed specifically for community organisations. Our approach is supportive, realistic and grounded in decades of experience working alongside rural communities.

We help organisations build the confidence, knowledge and structures they need to operate effectively, make informed decisions and plan for the future.

What we offer

Our training and capacity building sessions are flexible and designed around the needs of each organisation or community group.

Areas we commonly support include:

- Governance and roles for trustees, committees and volunteers
- Strengthening volunteer programmes and leadership
- Community engagement and consultation
- Project planning and delivery
- Partnership working and local collaboration
- Developing community initiatives and services
- Understanding rural challenges and opportunities
- Supporting new community leaders and emerging groups

Training can be delivered as workshops, facilitated sessions or structured learning programmes depending on what works best for your organisation.

Why Cambridgeshire ACRE

Our team brings practical experience across community development, rural housing, volunteer programmes, community engagement and local governance. We combine professional expertise with a deep understanding of how community organisations operate in practice.

Case study: Business development support for Community Lincs

Community Lincs identified a need to review and strengthen its operational management systems to support the effective delivery of projects and services. In particular, the organisation wanted greater consistency in project management, clearer understanding of staff time allocation, and improved approaches to budgeting and full cost recovery.

Cambridgeshire ACRE provided structured capacity-building support through a one-day, interactive training session delivered on site. The training introduced Community Lincs managers to Cambridgeshire ACRE's Project Management Toolkit, electronic staff timesheets, and a detailed budgeting and costing model.

Alongside the training, Community Lincs received adaptable templates and spreadsheets, giving the organisation practical tools to develop systems suited to its own operating context.

As a result, Community Lincs gained increased confidence and capability to strengthen project planning, work recording and financial management. The support enabled managers to make more informed decisions about resourcing, budgeting and future business development, laying foundations for more robust and sustainable organisational practice.



How we work

Every community organisation is different. Rather than delivering generic training, we start by understanding your organisation, your ambitions and the challenges you are facing.

Our sessions are practical and discussion based. Participants are encouraged to share experiences, ask questions and work through real challenges together. This approach helps build confidence and ensures that learning can be applied immediately.

We can provide:

- One off workshops or training sessions
- Facilitated learning sessions for committees or boards
- Training for networks of community organisations
- Structured programmes supporting new or emerging groups
- Bespoke sessions designed around specific local challenges

Our aim is always the same: to leave organisations stronger, more confident and better equipped to support their communities.

Start a conversation

If your organisation would benefit from training, facilitated learning sessions or support to build confidence and capacity, we would be pleased to discuss how we can help.

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