



CDAHerts

bringing together people
and communities



AGM 2025

www.cdaherts.org.uk

A Company Limited by Guarantee in England & Wales No 3712283
Registered Charity 1075224

Introducing the Board



Jodie Deards - Chair

Joined :-8/9/21



John Dawson - Treasurer

Joined :- 1/7/20



Sharon Parmar- Vice Chair

Joined :- 21/6/23



Peter Azilah - Data

Joined :- 11/12/24

Board Retirement / Appointments

- **Jodie & John are retiring from the board as the longest serving members.**
- **Jodie & John are seeking re-appointment to the board,
(Please raise your hand if you would like to object)**

Trustee Call

We are seeking Trustees from members to serve on the Board.



Visit Volunteering section on our website. CDAHerts.Org.UK

Motion to Delegate

Motion: Authority to make Board Appointments.

That the members of CDA Herts delegate authority to the Board and relevant officers to appoint further Board Members to strengthen the overview and Governance as deemed necessary.

- Ensure the Board remains strong in numbers.
- Continue to add expertise to the board.
- Diverse range of voices and opinions for effective decision making.
- Ability to remain operating in case of board retirement.

(Please raise your hand if you would like to Object)



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Financial Overview

Audited Accounts for Year Ended
31 March 2025

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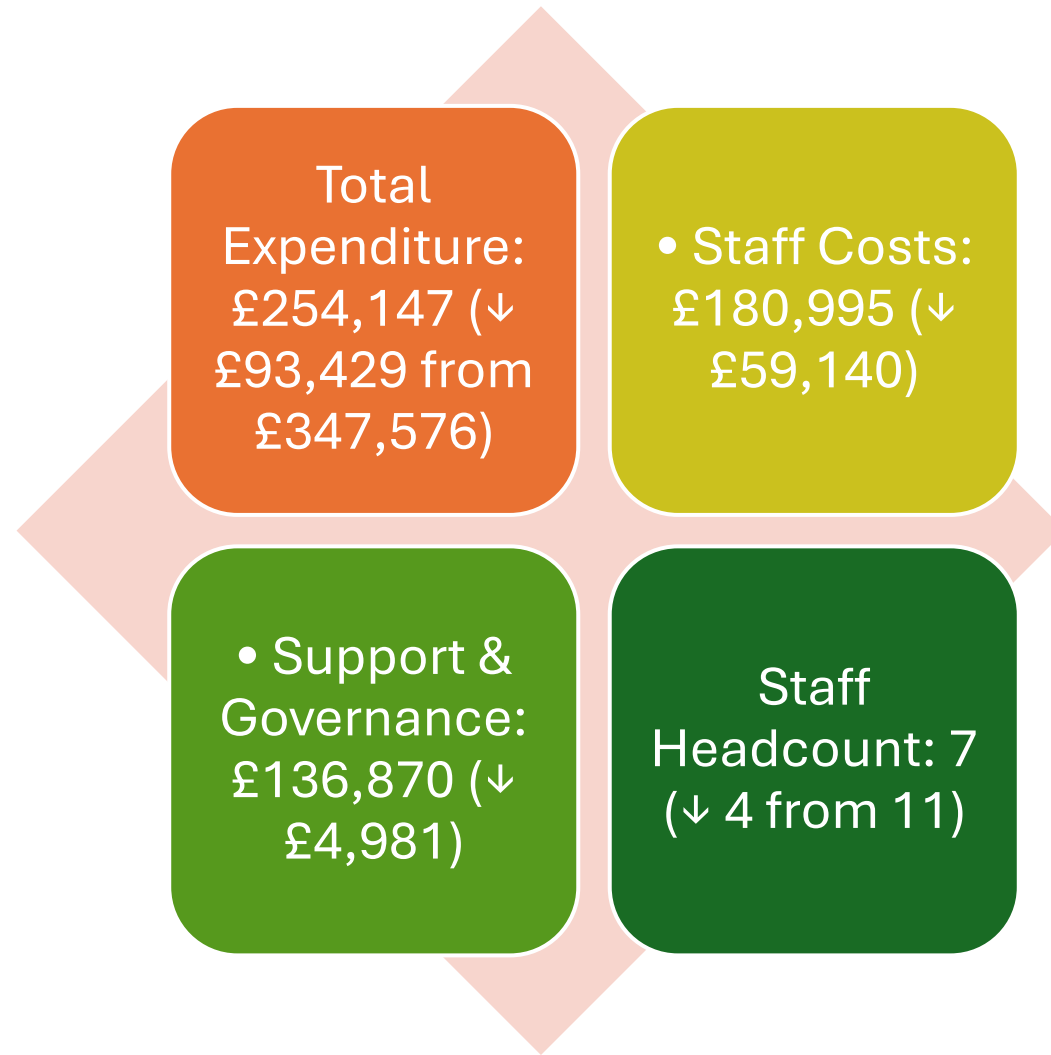
Income Overview

- Total Income: £186,787 (↓ £161,253 from £348,040 in 2024)
- Restricted Income: £132,322 (↓ £130,607 from £262,929)
- Unrestricted Income: £54,465 (↓ £30,646 from £85,111)

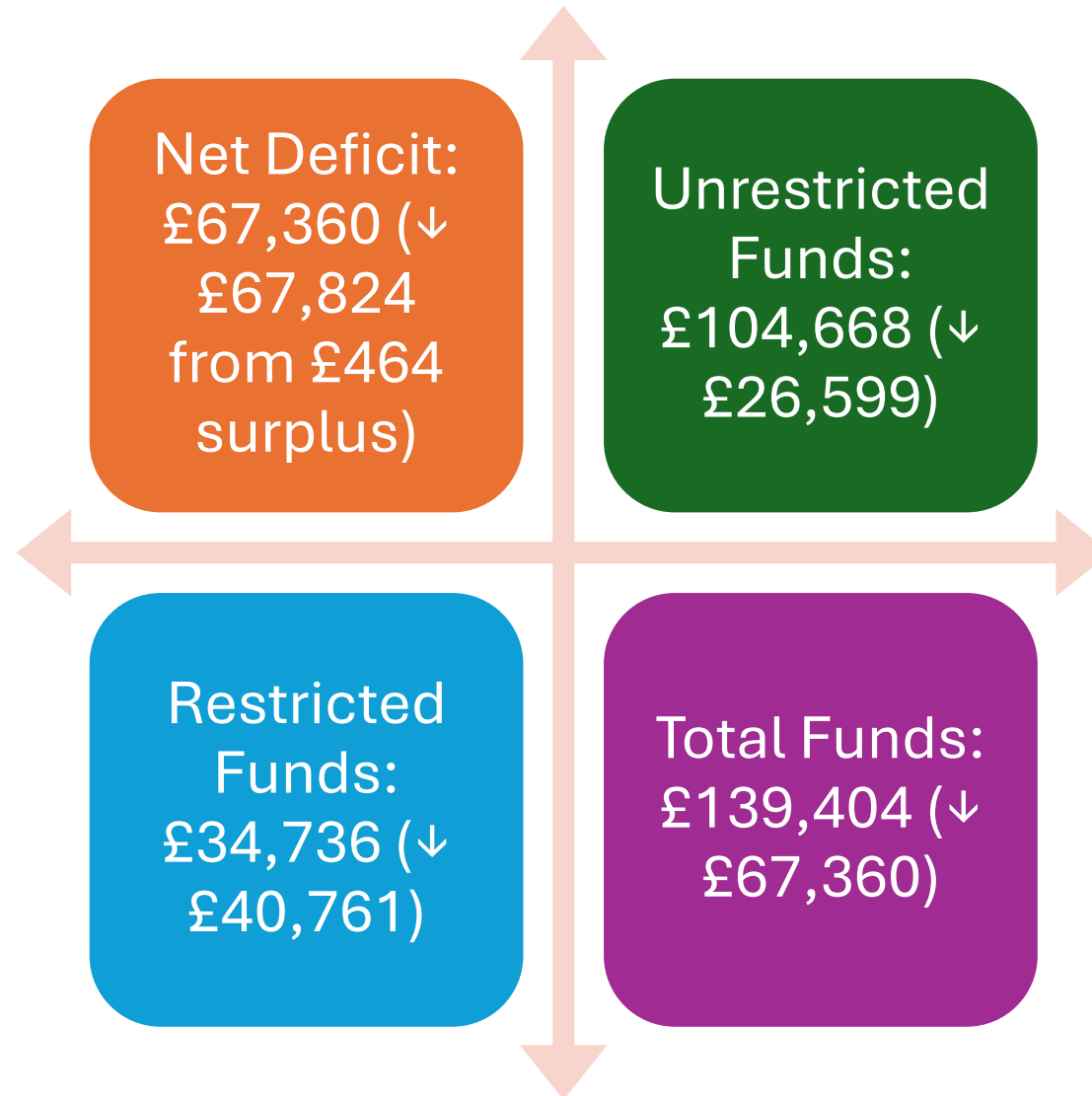
Key Sources:

- Charitable Activities: £168,490 (↓ £138,216 from £306,706)
- Donations & Legacies: £4,830 (↓ £2,710 from £7,540)
- Consultancy Fees: £3,876 (↓ £1,657 from £5,533)
- Investment Income: £6,626 (↓ £3,039 from £9,665)

Expenditure Overview



Net Movement & Fund Balances



Balance Sheet Snapshot

Item	2025 (£)	2024 (£)	Change
Cash at Bank	152,486	209,193	↓ £56,707
Debtors	496	5,248	↓ £4,752
Creditors (< 1 year)	14,208	8,518	↑ £5,690
Net Assets	139,404	206,764	↓ £67,360

Financial Trends Summary

Income fell sharply,
especially in restricted grants

Expenditure reduced, but not
enough to offset income loss

Reserves and liquidity
weakened significantly

Look Forward

The position for 2025/6 to date

Gross Income £ 66K

Gross Costs £79K

Current deficit **£13k**

Motion to Delegate

Authority for Auditor Review & Appointment

That the members of CDA Herts delegate authority to the Board and relevant officers to investigate alternative audit providers and appoint a new independent examiner or auditor for the 2025–26 financial year and beyond.

- Ensure we are achieving the best value.
- Effective financial oversight is critical to our accountability and stakeholder confidence

(Please raise your hand if you would like to Object)



Our Strategy

www.cdaherts.org.uk

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We are stronger together

We are delighted to present our Strategic Plan – shaping a future where togetherness enhances lives. Our commitment to fostering, connecting and serving our rural communities has never been stronger, and this plan reflects our determination to making a sustainable difference.

Together, we are not just building a plan; we are shaping a legacy of collaboration, resilience, and enablement.

Let's turn this vision into a reality, by fostering healthy sustainable connected communities.

Thank you for being an integral part of this journey.



Kevin Poulton
CEO



Jodie Deards
Chair



Who we are

Our Vision

To see a thriving, resilient and happy Hertfordshire, that harnesses the power of local neighbourhoods to drive positive change.

Our Mission

To foster healthy, sustainable, connected communities across rural Hertfordshire.



Who we are

CDA Herts is a unique, diverse and award winning charity which supports communities across the **whole of Hertfordshire**, with a proven track record built up over 60 Years.

Our supporting communities work focusses on people's health, wellbeing and the environment they live in. Our projects allow pro-active community orientated self-care, bridging the gap between the Health and the community.

We facilitate Community-led Planning and Rural Housing across the county, offering advice and support in creating a Parish, Town, Neighbourhood or Green Infrastructure Plan.

The only charity in Hertfordshire that is part of the ACRE* national network of Village Hall Advisors providing information, advice and support to charitable village hall committees.

Adopting the Asset Based Community development philosophy our projects and services offer opportunities that allow people to drive the change in making Hertfordshire a better place to live.

Our Digital Learners project epitomizes this approach with a friendly informal drop-in format. Where neighbours help neighbours with their digital journeys and preventing isolation through social engagement, adding to the health of the communities



*ACRE, Association of Community for Rural England.

Who we are - Values

Connectors

We keep people at the heart of all we do, believing connection is at the heart of success and happiness and self-worth.

Enablers

We actively foster growth, empowerment and positive change. Creating the space for communities to do more by themselves.

Sustainable

We build sustainable projects, services and communities; and will increase our own environmental sustainability and deliver green initiatives.

Collaborative

We believe great ideas come from working together with our communities. Using a wide range of partners, we will co-design projects and services to meet real needs.

Innovative

We embrace fresh thinking and creative solutions to meet the evolving needs of our community. By staying open to new ideas and smarter ways of working, we make our impact deeper and more meaningful.

Transparent

We operate with honesty and openness, ensuring our community, donors, and partners always know how decisions are made and where resources go. We share our successes, our challenges, and our lessons learned—because trust is built on honesty.

Our key pillars

Connected Communities



Rural Infrastructure



Advocacy



To help us achieve these we will focus on....

- Sustainability In communities
- Sustainability in the charity
- Community Businesses
- Our People & Partners

Our Impact ~ Jacks Story

Background:

Jack, aged 93, began attending weekly Digital Inclusion Drop-In sessions at his local village hall after the loss of his wife. Determined not to become isolated, he took steps to stay connected and independent through technology.

Digital Transformation:

- Attends **weekly 1:1 support sessions**.
- Now confidently uses an **iPhone, iPad, and Apple Watch**, all synced.
- Stays in touch with family and manages daily tasks online.

Real-World Impact:

Jack's digital skills proved vital during a recent emergency:

- After a **fall in the shower**, unable to reach his phone, he used his **Apple Watch and Siri** to call his daughter-in-law.
- He was able to **speak to her directly**, ensuring quick assistance.



Digital skills can be life-saving and empower older adults to remain connected, safe, and independent.



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Connected Communities

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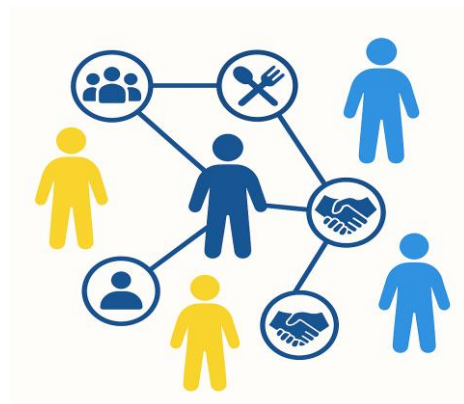
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ABCD Key Principles

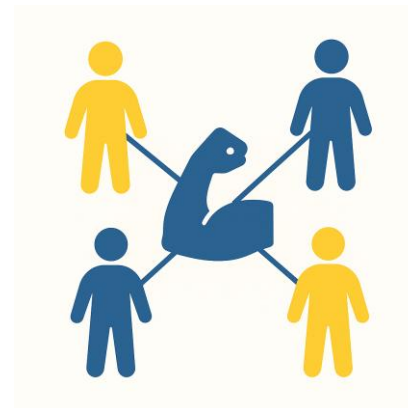
Asset Based Community Development



**Everyone has
gifts & skills**



**Communities
are rich in
associations**



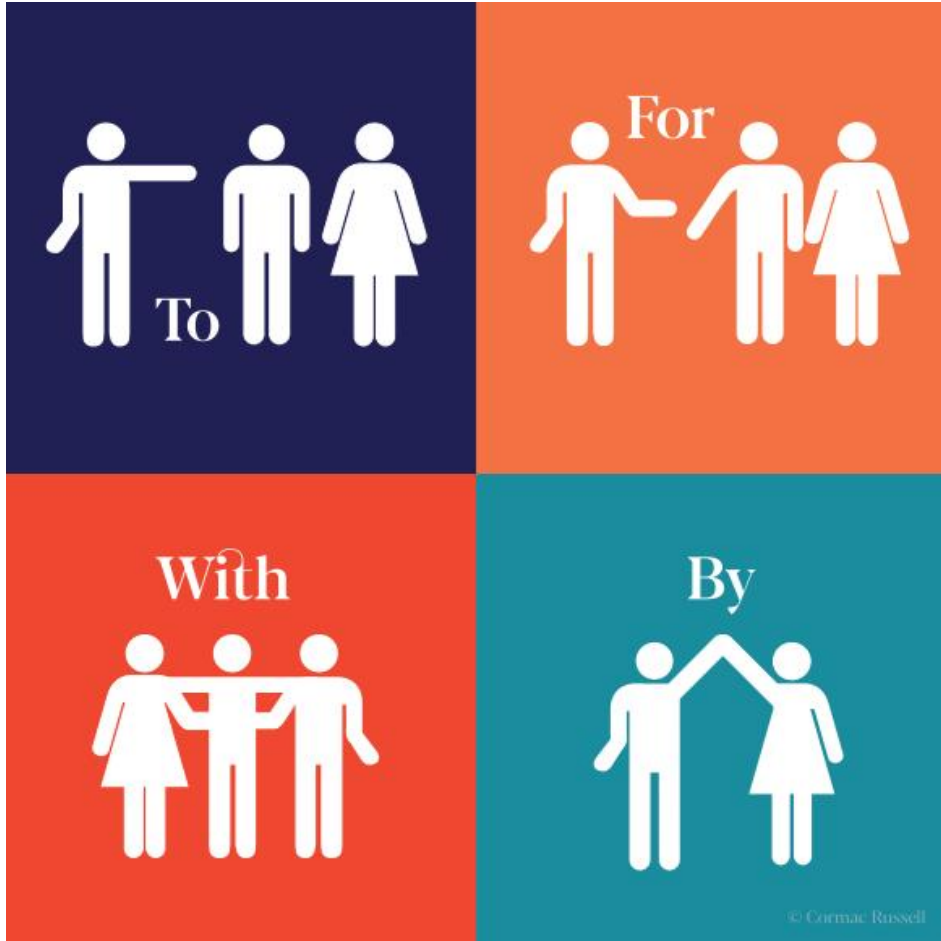
**Connections
build power**



**Communities
at the centre,
not services**

**Start with what is STRONG
not what is Wrong!**

Helpers Crossroad



With:

What is it that people can do with some outside help?

By:

What is it that people in communities are placed to do together?

Some of the projects



Rural Support Networks



KEY STATISTICS



2,052
people
supported
each month



2,020
volunteers
involved
over time



1,376
active
volunteers
right now



2,030
volunteer
hours
each month

Healthy Villages - Aims



Train 60 Volunteers, to perform 200 Blood Pressure Checks spanning 20 Villages



Help with NHS App registration and use in Digital Inclusion social drop-in sessions for 10 weeks in 6 villages.



Verify in 60 parishes the installation of Defibrillator

Healthy Villages - Summary

Total

522



322



200

More than 2 Years

250

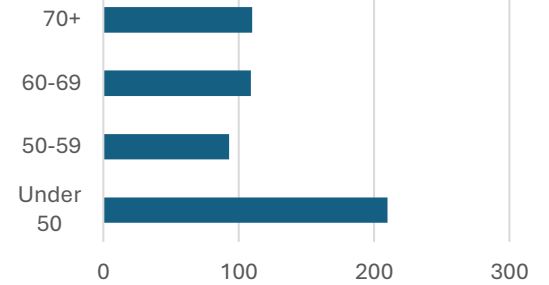


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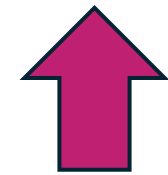


85

Age Spread



BP Reading



112



410

Volunteer Trained



69



19 Males & 18 Females
advised to seek further
Medical Assistance

Every Digital Inclusion session now has a Blood Pressure Monitor



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Community Garden

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Overview



One Acre of Land.

**On the edge of
Highfield Park,
St Albans**





Digital Inclusion

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What is Digital Inclusion?

- **Digital Inclusion project** helps local people gain the skills and confidence to get online, use digital tools, and stay safe.
- **FREE Digital Learner Drop-in Sessions** in village halls across Hertfordshire.
- Sessions have no set agendas or topics.
- The project is supported by trained local **Digital Champions** and **Digi-Buddies**.

Examples of what we do

- **Device Management** – Help setting up new devices or upgrading existing ones.
- **Online shopping & bills** – safe payments, account set-up, and managing subscriptions.
- **Prescriptions & NHS App** – ordering prescriptions and booking appointments.
- **Email & communication** – email set-up, video calls, and staying in touch.
- **Photos & media** – organising and sharing safely.
- **Staying safe online** – avoiding scams, protecting personal information, and spotting phishing.

Impact Statistics

Our impact between 2022 - 2025

354

Two-hour digital 'drop-in' sessions delivered across 6 rural venues

7,264



hours of volunteer time utilised to support new digital learners

88

locally recruited 'digital volunteers'

5,152



hours of individual digital support & advice provided

£510,720

of social impact generated through the delivery of the 'drop-in' sessions



480

new digital learners supported

£285,912



of social impact generated through regular volunteering opportunities

£5.02



of social impact generated for every £1 invested in delivering the 'drop-in' sessions - £7.84 including the impact generated through volunteering opportunities

"As a person of senior age living on my own and with no family members living nearby, I find the weekly support sessions invaluable in helping me keep afloat and connected within the ever changing digital world."

Improving lives through the internet in rural Hertfordshire

Feedback

“As a person of senior age living on my own and with no family nearby, I find the weekly IT support sessions invaluable in helping me keep afloat in an ever-changing digital world.”



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Active Villages

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What we do.

- Bring beginner-friendly activities to rural spaces — from walking groups along country lanes to chair yoga in village halls, low-impact boxing drills, and family sports tasters on the green.
- Work with parish councils, village halls, and local instructors to design activities that fit each community's pace and place.
- Provide light-touch coordination, local promotion, and easy booking so villagers can focus on joining in and having fun.
- Support local volunteers and venues with ready-made templates, safety checks, and simple funding routes to keep activities going.



**BOXING
SAVES
LIVES**

How it works.

- .Poll the village to determine interest / ideas
 - We scope your village — space, times, instructor options, access needs.
 - Help pilot for 6–8 weeks with simple sign-ups and local promotion.
 - Cement a regular activity into your village.
- Healthy villages encourages mental as well as physical well being, and helps to tackle rural isolation for a number of different key demographics we encounter in these communities

Call to Action



Current focus is on 5 villages we already have relationships with, but would love to hear from anyone else interested



Support us in finding the best activity for your residents

Find a **space**

Bring the **spirit!**



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Rural Infrastructure

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Rural Infrastructure



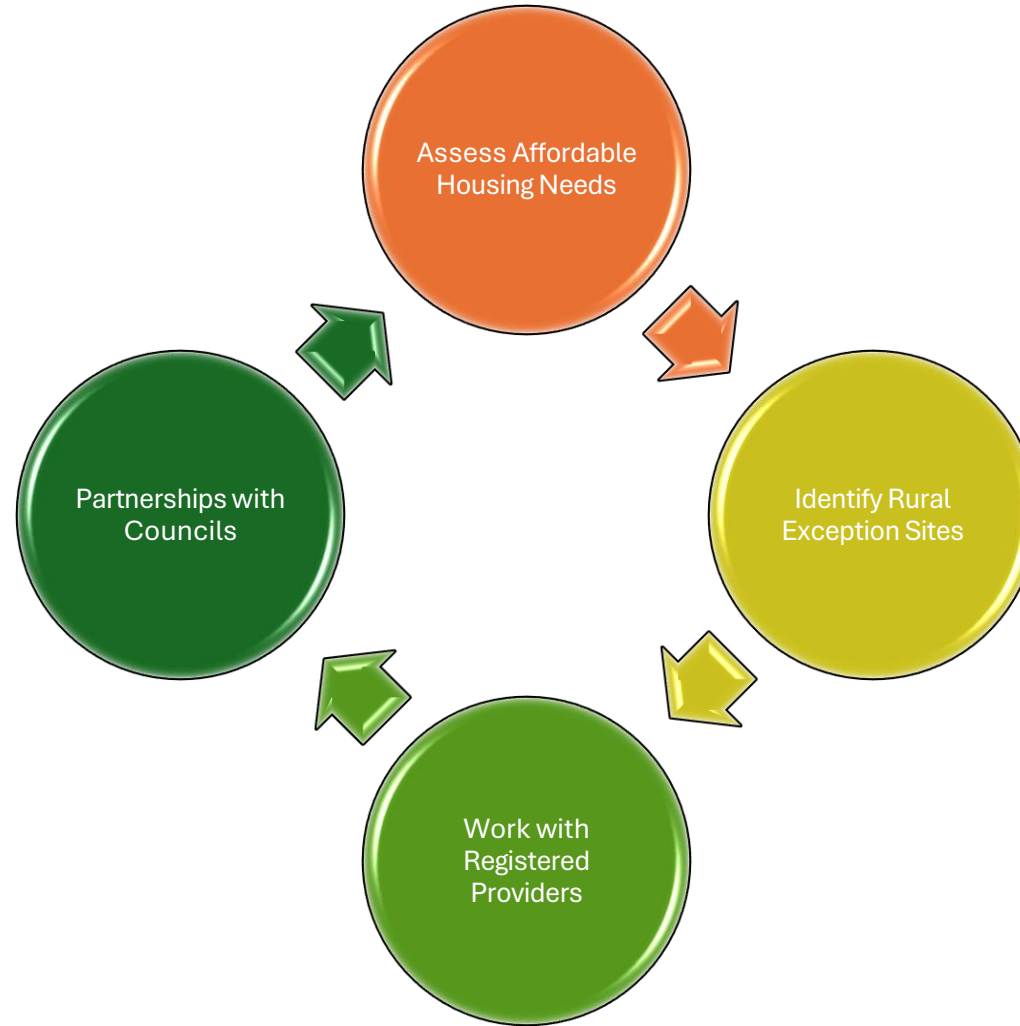


Rural Affordable Housing

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Rural Housing Enabler Service - The process



Ashwell Affordable Housing Needs Survey

Surveys were distributed to 820 Households by the Parish Council.

143 respondents = 17%.

95% of respondents strongly support affordable housing to meet local need.

CDA Herts RHE (Rural Housing Enabler) managed the responses, analysed the data and wrote a comprehensive Report.

The Report has been approved by the Parish Council and North Herts Council

In the Report there are details of the needs for a mix of twenty seven 1, 2 and 3 bedroom homes.

CDA Herts RHE will continue to provide support to help the Parish Council make progress with the recommendations.

Completed Affordable Housing Needs Surveys

Year	Village
2024	Ashwell, North Herts
2023	Much Hadham, East Herts Flamstead, Dacorum
2022	Chipperfield, Dacorum
2021	Graveley, North Herts

Call to Action



**When were Affordable Housing Needs
Last Assessed in your Village?**



Get in Touch for an exploratory
call with the
Rural Housing Enabler



Village Halls Advisory Service

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12 Months Work - Key Statistics



Energy, Net Zero; Finance & Grants; Martyn's Law; Managing Bookings; Governance; Refuse and Recycling; VAT; Asbestos; CIOs; Data Protection; Safeguarding; Car Parks; Health & Safety; Insurance; Trustees; Film Clubs; Card Readers; CCTV; Employees; Business Planning ...

VILLAGE HALLS ARE COMMUNITY HUBS

ACRE Platinum Jubilee Village Hall Fund

8 Halls were supported. 4 went to submission. 2 were successful



Sawbridgeworth Memorial Hall Trust received £72,000 towards a 1st floor extension & improvements.



Aldenham War Memorial Hall received £8,460 to help with the replacement of their 100 year old windows.

Village Halls & Community Buildings Conference 2025

Celebrating, Encouraging & Supporting Volunteers

The Conference was an excellent opportunity to interact with other trustees of village halls and to receive personal recommendations of specialist contractors.

Jane Lutman
Chair, Flamstead Village Hall Management Committee



51

Attendees



30

Village Hall
Trustees



15

Exhibitors
and presenters

Village Halls & Community Buildings Conference 2026

Thursday 5th March





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Kirsty Shanahan Community Energy Pathways

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Herts Community Energy™

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Herts Community Energy

- ✓ Develop community-owned renewable energy projects in villages.
- ✓ Support energy efficiency advice and retrofitting.
- ✓ Partner with councils, housing associations, and other Community Energy Champions. (*Green Heat Coop, Grand Union Community Energy*)
- ✓ Explore innovation: EV charging, battery storage, heat networks.



Thank You

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Funders



Department
for Environment
Food and Rural Affairs

