



STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE ON COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

ACT believes:

- Nobody should be disadvantaged by where they live.
- Community buildings are at the heart of rural community life; a key part of a community's historic and cultural identity, providing space for a wide-range of social, physical, educational and economic activity and services.
- Safe, accessible, comfortable and affordable community buildings are a keystone for thriving communities.
- In rural areas particularly, where access to services is limited, community buildings are a fundamental community asset.
- Community buildings should continue to be community owned and managed.
- Community buildings should adapt to be more environmentally sustainable, improve facilities and strengthen their financial sustainability.

ACT supports community buildings management committees to take action through:

- Understanding their roles and responsibilities.
- Having the information, knowledge and confidence to manage the community building well, fulfil all legal requirements and meet good practice standards e.g. Hallmark.
- Working with the wider community to ensure the community building meets everyone's needs.
- Developing projects to improve facilities and be more environmentally and financially sustainable.
- Networking with others and sharing good practice about what works well.
- Working in partnership with statutory authorities and others to improve local provision.

ACT will champion locally led action with and for community buildings and we will work with strategic partners to influence policy, where possible.

- We will champion community buildings.
- We will help communities maintain them as a local community asset.
- We will support community buildings to meet the needs of their community and plan for the future.
- We will ensure that community building management committees can access the professional and peer support they need as they fulfil their role and develop their ideas.
- We will assist them to be partners in place based, local and strategic plans.
- We will hold partners to account and continue to advocate so that local actions have greatest impact.

ACT as an organisation will continue to support community buildings by:

- Providing specialist information, advice and support, where needed and resources allow.
- Promoting community buildings as vital to rural communities.
- Working with ACRE and other ACRE Network partners to advocate on behalf of community buildings and develop bespoke national resources and solutions.
- Seeking views from management committees and building users to hear community voices.
- Hiring community buildings for our own events and activities.

Supporting communities since 1948

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