



Who are Northamptonshire ACRE?

Action with Communities in Rural England

Northamptonshire ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) is a local charity dedicated to supporting rural communities across Northamptonshire. Based at The Hunsbury Hill Centre in Northampton, the organisation works to improve the quality of life for people in villages and rural areas.

What Do They Do?

Support Rural Communities

- Help parish councils, village halls, and community groups to thrive.
- Offer advice, training, and guidance for local projects.

Affordable Housing

- Carry out Housing Needs Surveys in villages.
- Work with parishes, landowners, and housing providers to develop the right homes for local people.

Reduce Isolation

- Support volunteer-led Good Neighbour Schemes to help vulnerable or isolated residents.
- Encourage stronger, more connected communities.

Food & Wellbeing

- Run projects tackling food insecurity and promoting healthier lifestyles.
- Strengthen local food networks and support people struggling to access food.

Give Rural Communities a Voice

- Represent the concerns of rural residents to councils, government, and other decision-makers.
- Campaign for fair services and resources in villages.

Community Buildings

- Provide advice and training for village halls and community centres.
- Help committees with funding, management, and long-term planning.

✓ **In short: Northamptonshire ACRE is here to help rural communities be strong, sustainable, and supported – ensuring villages remain vibrant places to live for everyone.**





How a Rural Housing Enabler Can Support Our Parish

A **Rural Housing Enabler (RHE)** is an independent adviser who works with parishes to understand and meet local housing needs. Their role is to support villages in finding the right homes, in the right places, for the people who need them most.

What an RHE Can Do for Us

Identify Local Needs

- Carry out a Housing Needs Survey to discover what types of homes local people need (affordable rent, starter homes, downsizing options).
- Provide clear, independent evidence the parish can use in planning.

Raise Awareness & Share Knowledge

- Explain what “affordable housing” really means.
- Bust myths and answer community questions.
- Run open sessions so residents can have their say.

Facilitate Local Conversations

- Act as a neutral broker between the parish, landowners, residents, and housing providers.
- Ensure community voices are central to any decisions.

Find the Right Sites

- Work with landowners to explore small, suitable sites.
- Ensure new homes respect the parish’s character and planning rules.

Enable Delivery

- Connect the parish with trusted housing associations and developers.
- Help access grants, funding, and government support.

Secure Local Benefit

- Make sure homes are prioritised for people with a local connection.
- Promote high-quality, sensitive designs that meet long-term village needs.

✓ In short: An RHE helps our parish understand local housing needs, explore solutions, and deliver the right homes for local people.

