



RURAL AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURES THEMATIC

Newsletter - January 2024



VCSE ASSEMBLY NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

The VCSE Assembly Northamptonshire is now a constituted charity. The VCSE has been set up to bring together all the disparate VCSE organisations to have a stronger voice as one. The overarching aim of the Assembly is to improve the representation of VCSE organisations, irrespective of their size, and continue partnership building with public and private sector organisations in the county, to meet the needs of local groups and the communities we serve.

The team are currently putting together a National Lottery bid for a Project Officer to carry the work forward.

DEFRA have launched a programme to make rural housing more affordable.

The £2.5m package will support a network of independent advisors who will work with communities to develop affordable housing schemes. The advisors will help identify suitable development opportunities in communities, and support site owners and community representatives to navigate the planning system and create developments in rural areas that meet the needs of local people.

The scheme, which is being delivered in conjunction with Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE), will help boost the supply of new, affordable homes across England.

RURAL HOUSING ENABLER

SUSTAINABLE FOOD NETWORKS

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There are two sustainable food networks in Northamptonshire – covering both the North and West of the County. A sustainable food network focuses on environmentally friendly and socially responsible habits, throughout the entire food chain. Beginning at production and through to consumption and waste management.

NORTH NORTHANTS SUSTAINABLE FOOD NETWORK



North Northants has a vision for everyone to enjoy healthy, local affordable food where communities can help to shape their local food network. Working towards ending food poverty and inequality by developing a sustainable food environment that flourishes.

WEST NORTHANTS SUSTAINABLE FOOD NETWORK



The West Northants sustainable Food Place exists to improve the sustainability, accessibility, quality and affordability of food in West Northants. The project has a vision to promote healthy and sustainable food as part of a thriving food economy, the West Northamptonshire Sustainable Food Charter aims to improve health and wellbeing for all and to create a more connected, resilient and sustainable town.

Their aims are:

- a thriving local economy
- health and wellbeing for all
- resilient, close-knit communities
- lifelong learning and skills



GOING DIGITAL



The digital switchover will soon be upon us, and is very likely to affect many people living in our rural communities. If someone you know, relies on their landline and/or uses a telecare device, such as a fall monitor, lifeline or personal alarm, then you will need to let your communication provider know ASAP.

It is important to note that, in the event of a power cut, they will not work. A mobile phone can still be used. You should tell your telecoms provider now if you have no other way of making emergency calls.

For further information please take a look here: [Digital switchover toolkit](#)

RURAL COMMUNITY TRANSPORT



Rural community transport usually involves services that address the transport needs of people, who are living, in our rural communities.

It may include community buses or models that are part of a Good Neighbours Scheme. The aim of community transport is to improve mobility for residents who may have difficulty accessing essential services due to limited public transport, in their area.

NACRE will again produce a Community Transport Directory for 2024. If you would like a copy, please email us at: acre@northantsacre.org.uk