



For Prospective Trustees:

About Northamptonshire ACRE

Northamptonshire ACRE's object is working with rural communities to improve their quality of life, especially that of the disadvantaged. We are one of 38 Rural Community Councils working across England which make up the ACRE network. Our national body, ACRE, works at the strategic level with government bodies to ensure that the needs and voices of rural communities are listened to and included in any new legislation.

Our main focus within Northamptonshire is on community development and engagement, particularly with villages and parishes who wish to carry out any form of community planning. This includes assisting them with accessing funding pots for projects and supporting them with funding applications. We also work with local communities to reduce rural isolation and vulnerability; to make it more affordable for people on low incomes to live in rural areas and to improve services within those communities. This can be through better communications links, strong community facilities, or more accessible education and health services.

We support and advise rural community groups on a wide range of issues and encourage local action and participation in decision-making. We campaign to ensure that the interests of people living in rural Northamptonshire are taken into account in policy making and strategic planning affecting the county.

We are accredited at Level 3 of the ACRE Standards, which are endorsed by the Charity Commission.

We operate out of the Hunsbury Hill Centre on the western outskirts of Northampton, very near to junction 15A of the M1. These are freehold premises in a group of late 18th century model farm buildings owned by the charity. Our funding comes from membership fees, consultancy fees, an annual grant from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and income from a wedding and conference centre business we run at the Centre through a wholly owned subsidiary trading company, Hunsbury Hill Centre Ltd.

The Board meets on 3-monthly basis, with an AGM later in the year. The meetings are usually in the day time, but could be held in the early evenings when necessary. The trustees, of course, are unpaid, but are entitled to claim reasonable expenses.