

You've Got the Power

People care about their neighbourhoods and want a say in how they evolve

70% of citizens have a strong sense of belonging to their neighbourhood (Community Life Survey 2013/14).

69% of citizens think it is important for them personally to feel they can influence decisions in their local area (Community Life Survey 2013/14).

63% of citizens say they would be more supportive of house building if local people were given greater control and say over what gets built (British Social Attitudes Survey 2013).

Communities have a set of powers known as Community Rights

The Community Right to Bid helps to protect locally important community assets. Communities can nominate any local building or land they love as an 'asset of community value' and then, if it comes up for sale, they have six months to raise the funds to buy it.

Neighbourhood Planning enables local communities to shape the places where they live and work. Residents are directly able to decide what type of development is needed, where it should go and what it should look like.

Our Place helps residents work together with councillors, service providers, businesses and voluntary and community organisations to solve local problems and improve local services. Our Place ensures that public money is being spend in the ways local people want.

The Tenant Empowerment Programme supports social housing tenants to engage in, manage or control local services. It provides training, funding and support that enables tenants to, for instance, manage a service, or take control of their housing through the Right to Manage.

Community Shares enable residents to invest financially in community projects. By buying shares and becoming part owners of a business, local people can become supporters, volunteers and advocates, and projects get much needed funding to get started and become financially sustainable.

You're taking control...

- Over 1500 Assets of Community Value listed
- Over 1200 neighbourhood plans underway
- 120 Our Place areas developing full operational plans
- £50m raised in community shares since 2012
- 90,000 people reached by the Tenant Empowerment Programme

...and making a real difference across the country

Services: Writhlington Court residents in Somerset took on delivery of their gardening services from their Landlord, resulting in savings which will go back to local residents.

New Homes: In Cringleford, residents voted in favour of a neighbourhood plan allocating land for approximately 1200 new homes.

Apprenticeships: The One Haverhill partnership pioneered the Our Place approach, creating 51 new apprenticeships with potential lifetime savings of at least £900k.

Community Pub: The Ivy House Pub in London was bought by its community, saving it from redevelopment into flats.

New Stadium: FC United of Manchester have raised £1.9m to help build their new stadium through community shares.

For more information about how you can get involved go to www.mycommunityrights.org.uk.