

# RESOURCING NEIGHBOURHOOD CHANGE

HELPING YOU MAKE LOCAL AMBITION A REALITY

HOPE

Anthony Collins  
solicitors

Communities in the UK have always been about people coming together to support one another to get the things they need whether food or housing, access to services, access to education or learning. There are real opportunities for local enterprises to take over assets, deliver services or develop new housing or facilities.

Some of the areas we are currently working in include:

### Governance

We have worked with a number of organisations nationally advising on and creating appropriate governance structures and/or ensuring that their organisations are or remain, fit for their specific purpose. We have recently set up a charitable organisation that is to take on the management of all of the properties of a registered provider within its area of benefit, ensuring that the community remains at the heart of the services provided to those who live there. We provide bespoke training for board members and company secretaries and have significant experience in navigating governance disputes including sensitive issues involving board member conduct.

### Community assets

Whether it's the process of community asset transfer or expressing an interest in the Assets of Community Value rules in the Localism Act, we can help. We've worked on transfers of community centres, health facilities, leisure facilities, libraries and school buildings, as well as advising on multiple transfers and working with Locality on model guidance and documents (available at <http://locality.org.uk/resources/asset-transfer-legal-toolkit/>).

### Tenant management

We work in close collaboration with the National Federation of Tenant Management Organisations (NFTMO), and we've supported them at their conference for the last five years. We support a number of individual TMOs nationally, including on governance and board training, employment matters, issues with tenants and residents, and dealing with matters arising with the local authority.

### Housing and locally led development

We are currently supporting a tenant management organisation, working in partnership with a developer and the local authority in acquiring sites for new affordable housing in their patch, using funding through the community right to build, which is about to start on site. We have helped set up a number of community land trusts (CLTs) in cities and rural areas, including supporting the long-term success of organisations like Witton Lodge Community Association in Birmingham ([www.wittonlodge.org.uk](http://www.wittonlodge.org.uk)). We have also worked with the National CLT Network for a number of years, providing tailored services to their membership for the various life stages of a CLT.

### Social investment

With finance increasingly hard to come by, local organisations are looking for alternative ways of raising funds. We've advised on community share issues (see <http://communityshares.org.uk/> for lots of useful information), community bonds, and other funding mechanisms.



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### Delivering public services

All sorts of social enterprises, including community organisations, are getting involved in delivering services. The obstacles can be significant, but if the will is there, we can help you find the way through issues like procurement rules, state aid, or TUPE.

### Renewable energy

We have advised a number of co-operative and community-based schemes, from micro-generation to the implications of the Green Deal.

## What our clients say about us...

*"As always, it has been a pleasure working with Anthony Collins Solicitors, who have gone that one step further than they needed to in order to support and explain the intricacies of leases and funding agreements during our steep learning curve about asset transfer."*

**Linda Hines**, Chair, Witton Lodge

*"Springfield Horseshoe Co-operative has engaged ACS on a number of matters ranging from employment issues, board training, to general advice on the Co-operative Rules. We are always met with clear and concise advice with identified resolutions, delivered in a professional and approachable manner. Where a matter becomes non-cost effective in pursuing, this has also been identified with thoughtfully reasoned advice."*

**Julia Pangbourne** Housing Manager, Springfield Horseshoe Housing Management Co-operative Ltd

*"With an extremely short timescale to capitalise on a major grant, complete a lease agreement, tender for a building contract and arrange cashflow finance for the project, David Alcock and his team at Anthony Collins Solicitors provided the essential legal advice required, in terms of both risk management and the necessary sequence of bespoke contracts, to manage our complex community project."*

**Peter Miller**, SGH Venue Management, Bewdley



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# FURTHER INFORMATION



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