



**Action**  
**in rural Sussex**  
**Community Buildings**

**Teresa Gittins, Head of Services**

# **Challenges and Opportunities**

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- ✓ **AirS Village Halls and Community Buildings Service**
  - ✓ **Top 5 challenges for Voluntary and Community groups**
  - ✓ **How do these apply to hall trustees, what are your challenges?**
  - ✓ **Halls are an invaluable community asset - some of the opportunities provided by halls for their communities**
  - ✓ **Participate in improving our service**

23 November, 2017

# Sussex AirS Village Halls & Community Buildings service



## Are we delivering what you need?

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- ✓ National policy framework translated, part of national network ACRE
- ✓ Monthly newsletter - updates on all issues / information
- ✓ Website information - providing model documents, topic notes, information sheets
- ✓ Email Helpline for routine questions – [villagehalls@ruralsussex.org.uk](mailto:villagehalls@ruralsussex.org.uk)
- ✓ Consultancy service - tackling 'knotty' issues / funding support/ governance changes
- ✓ Representation on your behalf to public sector providers
- ✓ Encouraging and supporting the use of village halls for local service delivery and community provision

23 November, 2017

## **Top 5 challenges facing voluntary groups – AirS research**

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- 1. Finding, keeping and replacing volunteers**
- 2. Finding someone to lead or co-ordinate a group,  
replace existing leaders**
- 3. Finding funding, fundraising help**
- 4. Overcoming / understanding ‘red tape’,  
bureaucracy**
- 5. Finding expert help when needed.**

## **Do these apply to you?**

## **What we have heard?**

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- ✓ **Finding people to run the hall, help with routine tasks, people with confidence to help with processes**
- ✓ **Treasurer, Chairman roles are particularly difficult to fill**
- ✓ **New build funding can take years to accumulate and sources of funding have reduced over the last 5 years**
- ✓ **Small fundraising for equipment or activity is easier**
- ✓ **Increased bureaucracy / routine tasks/ processes have grown every year.**
- ✓ **Expert help is often needed at short notice so need a good referral system for halls**
- ✓ **Issues are often different for large and small halls**

23 November, 2017

# **Opportunities for communities. Halls are providing an essential service – always have done!**



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- ✓ **Local community activities, clubs and groups**
  - ✓ **Events – anniversary parties, weddings, wakes etc**
  - ✓ **Attracting services out of urban centres e.g baby checks, podiatry clinic, strength and balance classes**
  - ✓ **Public role – polling stations, meetings, public consultations, parish council meetings**
  - ✓ **Community services – improving access for key groups, reducing isolation – childcare and nursery provision, dementia support, older people’s support, carer services**
  - ✓ **Effect of cutbacks - more childcare but no increase in resources, cutbacks of rural Library Service - role for halls.**

# **Important exercise at AirS stand – help us to help you**

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- ✓ What are you already offering your community that you're proud of because it meets local needs of your community.
- ✓ Identify the key challenges you face? Which ones do you need assistance with?
- ✓ What are your aspirations for your hall?



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