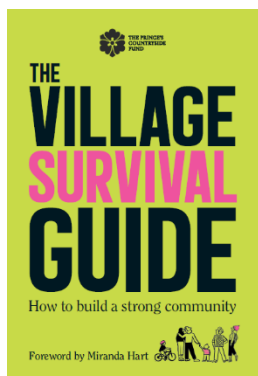


The Prince's Countryside Fund's inspiring new guide helps get rural communities up and running



The Prince's Countryside Fund – a charity founded by HRH The Prince of Wales to help the British countryside to flourish – has launched their [Village Survival Guide](#), a vibrant manual filled with tips and advice on how to build a strong community.

This colourful guide is an entertaining collection of case histories, checklists and practical advice, which will enable those living in the countryside to utilize the talents available in their own communities, and benefit from the examples of many others to tackle some of their own challenges.

It follows on from the Fund's 2018 research *Recharging Rural*, which saw over 3000 people tell the charity about the challenges they faced living in rural areas, and how they were pulling together to overcome these.

Available in hard copy to buy, or to download for free, the **Village Survival Guide** features contributions from more than 40 local groups across the UK, as well as from experts and organisations such as ACRE, the Plunkett Foundation, and Pub is the Hub.

Claire Saunders, Director of The Prince's Countryside Fund said: "Over the past nine years, the Fund has distributed more than £10 million in grant funding, to hundreds of inspiring community groups and charities. We realised that what people had learned from these successful projects could help to inspire others to take the initiative and transform their local community; the projects run by these groups deliver essential services at a local level, often making up for shortfalls in other provisions.

"The fantastic response we had to *Recharging Rural* showed the huge appetite there is for this type of approach, and so we're thrilled to be launching *The Village Survival Guide*. The 100-page handbook covers everything from how to set up a committee, to installing digital infrastructure, and where to go to get funding for your project. We hope that this is a really useful, empowering resource that makes it easier for people to put their ideas into practice."

The guide covers topics including how to set up shops, pubs, and hubs; rural housing; transport; business development; digital infrastructure; and how to get help when you need it. There is also a **Village Sustainability Top 10**, which looks at the key things that communities must do to safeguard their future viability. The recent House of Lords report, "Time for a strategy for the rural economy," highlighted the need for, amongst other things, a rural- strategy, reenergised rural proofing and place-based solutions. **The Village Survival Guide** helps communities to seize the opportunity and create some of their own local solutions, to both social and economic issues in the countryside.



The Prince's Countryside Fund would like to thank all those who contributed their expertise and story to *The Village Survival Guide*, and players of People's Postcode Lottery for their support of the digital version.

The guide is available to purchase in hard copy or download for free from www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk/VSG and is available from 1st August 2019.

ENDS

PRESS RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 00.01 THURSDAY 1ST AUGUST 2019



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For further information or interview requests please contact Ellie Jesson, Operations Manager at The Prince's Countryside Fund on ejesson@countrysidefund.org.uk or 07552 340 129.

The Village Survival Guide can be read [here](#).

Notes to Editors:

The Prince's Countryside Fund was established by HRH The Prince of Wales in 2010 and aims to enhance the prospects of family farm businesses and the quality of rural life. We believe that the British countryside is our most valuable natural asset and its contribution to our everyday life cannot be underestimated.

To help support and secure the future of the countryside we:

- Provide more than £1m each year in grant and programme funding to projects across the UK thanks to support from our partners, events and donations
- Celebrate and promote the value of the countryside
- Lead projects to strengthen farm businesses, such as The Prince's Farm Resilience Programme
- Commission research into issues affecting farming families and rural communities
- Bring together individuals and businesses to help tackle current challenges
- Help communities in crisis through our Emergency Fund

To find out more, visit the Fund's website at www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk