



The Road Ahead 2026

A conference for charities, groups and volunteers

Thursday 9 July 2026 from 9.30am to 2pm

The Vineyard, Unit 7 Brick Knoll Park, Ashley Rd, St Albans, AL1 5UG

9.30am Registration, Refreshments, Networking, chance to attend marketplace

10am Welcome and Housekeeping
Jason John, Chair, Communities 1st

10.15am Facilitated discussion: Holding Communities Together in Unsettled Times

11am AGM
Jason John, Chair, Communities 1st

11.20am Refreshments, Networking and chance to attend marketplace

11.20am to 2pm (20 mins bookable sessions)

1:1 Funding Advice Surgery Sessions

- Hertsmere Borough Council
- Hertfordshire Community Foundation
- The National Lottery
- St Albans Lions Club
- St Albans District Council
- Children in Need
- Wellfield Trust
- The Giving Machine

1:1 Advice Surgeries

- Community Banking with Unity Trust Bank
- Top Tips for Bid Writing
- Successful Impact Reporting
- Volunteer Recruitment and Management
- Trustee Recruitment

11.40am Workshop 1

Please book one workshop from one of the two sessions below. Places are limited and allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Workshop 1 – Recommended Session for Charities & Groups	Workshop 1 – Recommended Session for Volunteers
Fraud, scams and financial risk: protecting your charity and beneficiaries Alan Mordey, Herts Cyber Protect, Hertfordshire Police	Volunteering Safely in a More Complex World Chris Cloke, Trustee, Communities 1st
Partnerships That Deliver, Not Just Exist Aimee Venner, South West Herts NHS Health and Care Partnership	From Volunteer to Trustee, Ambassador or Campaigner Jason John, Chair of Trustees Communities 1st
Environmental Responsibility on a Small Budget Michael Martin, Head of Net Zero, WENTA	Telling Your Story: Why What You Do Matters

12.20pm Break

12.30pm Workshop 2

Please book one workshop from one of the two sessions below. Places are limited and allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Workshop 2 – for Charities & Groups	Workshop 2 – for Volunteers
Building diverse income streams without losing your mission Duncan Lewis, Emmaus St Albans	Using Digital Tools and AI as a Volunteer Capgemini (through Digital Unite)
Financial Oversight for Non-Finance Leads	Volunteering Across Difference
Preparing for Local Government Reform and System Change	Skills You Gain From Volunteering (and How to Use Them Elsewhere)
Intergenerational Workshop Annie Stevenson, Age Friendly Ambassador	

1.10pm Lunch, Networking and chance to attend marketplace

2pm End

