



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

11.15am Get dancing with Para Dance UK, led by Selina Johnson

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

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
Sustainability that pays: How going greener wins grants, donations and sponsorship Michael Martin, Head of Net Zero, WENTA	Telling Your Story: Why What You Do Matters Louise Dempsey, Head of Industry Engagement and Events, Media Trust

12.20pm Break

12.30pm Workshop 2

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 Iona Chamberlain Clark, Digital Inclusion Project Co-ordinator, Capgemini (through Digital Unite)
Preparing for Local Government Reform and System Change Sarah Perman, Director of Public Health, Hertfordshire County Council Kristy Thakur, Head of Service Community & People Wellbeing and Money Advice Unit, Hertfordshire County Council Jyoti Bhojani, Policy Manager, Hertsmere Borough Council	Volunteering Across Difference Gabriela L, Volunteer Vanessa Lee, Coffee Cart & Volunteer Support Officer
What is Age Friendly: Live Better Herts? Age is an Asset: Unlocking the Power of Intergenerational Communities Annie Stevenson, Age Friendly Ambassador Misty Fletcher, Live Better Locality Lead, Age UK Hertfordshire Anna C. Park, Intergenerational Specialist	Skills You Gain From Volunteering (and How to Use Them Elsewhere) Judith Volner, Employment Support and Skills Manager, Communities 1st

1.10pm Lunch, Networking and chance to attend marketplace

2pm End

