

RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS IN THE PROPERTY WORLD

We've compiled a selection of links and resources to help you explore post-event initiatives, networking opportunities, and collaborations across Cambridgeshire's social impact and property collaboration space. These opportunities aim to:

- Drive responsible development and good growth by nurturing and building longer-term mutually beneficial relationships that create lasting value and impact.
- Help businesses engage more meaningfully, easily, and sustainably with their local communities through the sharing of time, skills, resources, experiences, and finances.
- Create spaces and places that foster cross-sector collaboration and conversations among charities, social enterprises, companies, and community groups, aligning ESG, CSR, and social value business goals with community perspectives and needs at the grassroots level.

Let's keep the conversation going!

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Responsible Business: What does it mean for the East of England Property World?

The relationship between businesses and their communities is now integral to success in 2024. This is particularly true in cities like Cambridge, where disparities in wealth and life opportunities are significant.

Our most recent event opened the door to conversations about how the property, architecture, construction, and development sectors can make an even greater difference. We explored examples of successful projects, initiatives, and companies working within and across local communities.

At its core, responsible business is about creating partnerships and relationships that foster sustainable and equitable growth, enabling everyone to thrive. By placing collaboration and innovation at the center of initiatives, businesses and communities can work together for the long term, playing an active role in building inclusive, thriving communities.



Here are some organisations and opportunities to help you champion responsible practices and drive positive. Click the headings to learn more.

GET SYNERGISED

Connecting businesses with registered nonprofits to spark innovation and drive social change.

GET SYNERGISED WITH PURPOSE NETWORK

The With Purpose Network, a first-of-its-kind membership platform, is transforming the way businesses across Cambridgeshire engage - both in person and online - with registered charities and social enterprises united by a shared purpose for social good. Our network and community make it easier for businesses to connect with their local community, discover who's out there, and understand what's needed through networking events, online topical discussions, mentoring, volunteering opportunities, and the mutual sharing of time, skills, and resources. We help businesses meet their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) objectives, driving real social impact, while nonprofits receive much-needed support and investment.

GET SYNERGISED BUSINESS CONSULTANCY SERVICES

A bespoke consultancy service for UK businesses to seamlessly integrate social value and CSR into core business operations. Taking a fact-finding and strategic approach, businesses are supported in shaping an embedded strategy aligned with business goals, focused on forming sustainable partnerships with their communities and organisations, for mutual benefit and driving profitability. The 3-Phase Approach, along with a tailored matching service, delivers measurable impact and activities that speak to all stakeholders, empowering businesses to communicate their efforts as a responsible and sustainable way to do business.



VOLUNTEER CAMBS

A go-to online platform for volunteering in Cambridgeshire. Whether you want to offer your time to support a local cause or if you're a community organisation seeking volunteers, this is a great place to go.

CAMBRIDGE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Working towards a better quality of life for people across the county, to make Cambridgeshire a better place to live, work and play. CCF identify the most critical needs of local communities, raise funds and award grants to non-profit organisations that make a big impact in addressing those needs.

THE CAMBRIDGE PLEDGE

Cambridge's innovation ecosystem is one of the most successful in the world - home to the world's highest concentration of academic entrepreneurs and 24 'Unicorns' – with a bold ambition for further growth - But this growth must not deepen inequality, nor undermine support for Cambridge's innovation strategy. The Cambridge Pledge will deploy capital through social impact investments - made to maximise social impact.

CAMBRIDGE 2030

Cambridge 2030 brings public and private sectors together with charity and community interest organisations in collaborative action to bridge gaps in provision and resources, increase local progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and deliver a more equal and inclusive city, where everyone can achieve sustained happiness and wellbeing.



UK PROPERTY FORUMS

Join one of the most dynamic and informative property networking groups in the South East of the UK, the UK Prop Social holds regular events across the Golden Triangle – Oxford, Cambridge, Reading, and West London. Independent news and views from the Thames Valley, London West, and East of England property, design, and construction markets and open to investors, developers, advisors, consultants, and contractors working across the real estate sector. As founders of the East of England Prop Awards, find out how to enter awards to demonstrate your social, environmental, and industry successes.

CAMBRIDGE PROPERTY DRINKS

A monthly networking event for Property Industry Professionals in Cambridgeshire and surrounding Areas.



We are delighted that several organisations working directly with our communities have joined us at today's event. If you would like to learn more about who they are and why they do what they do, take a look below.

NEW MEANING FOUNDATION

New Meaning Foundation is a charity in Cambridge that builds SPACE Micro-homes for homeless people. It offers work experience and further education for ex-homeless individuals and people from backgrounds of hardship who want to learn to earn.

ALLIA FUTURE HOMES

Modular housing built to provide affordable, supported living for those experiencing homelessness.

CENTRE 33

A young people's charity, working across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, specialising in supporting young people of secondary age up to the age of 25. Their vision is that every young person is listened to and respected for who they are, and that they receive the support to enable them to be who they want to be. They do this through the delivery of safe, free, accessible, and professional services that listen to, support, and inspire young people.

ARBURY ROAD EAST RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The Arbury Road East Residents Association (ARERA) aims to provide a forum for discussion of issues affecting residents and business owners on Arbury Road, and its side streets, from the North Cambridge Academy school to the junction at Milton Road.



ABBAY PEOPLE

A vibrant community charity in the Abbey Ward of Cambridge, improving the lives and well-being of Abbey residents. They do this through targeted community projects, the provision of general support such as a community Food Hub, supporting access to education and employment, projects to improve the environment, and by developing a culture of volunteering in the community.

CAM SKATE

Cam Skate is a community interest company that supports and promotes skateboarding in Cambridge.

CAMBRIDGE CYRENIANS

Homes • Choices • Futures – Accommodation, support, and specialist services for homeless men and women in Cambridge. Cambridge Cyrenians believe in homes, not hostels – their residents are encouraged to take responsibility for their own lives, with support from a professional team of staff and volunteers. This approach to housing and support helps residents gain valuable and lasting skills to prepare them for future independence.

CCVS

CCVS champion and support community and voluntary groups, and promote volunteering across Cambridge City, South Cambridgeshire, and Fenland.



FORM THE FUTURE CIC

Form the Future connects young people to a world of career possibilities, inspiring them to dream big and empowering them to fulfill their potential. They equip young people with the experience and skills needed to succeed in their chosen careers, while enabling businesses to recruit skilled workers locally. By bridging the gap between these two worlds, they help both work together to achieve more. As the provider of the skills service for the Greater Cambridge Partnership, Form the Future links schools and businesses to build students' career awareness, enhance employability skills, and promote apprenticeships.

THE CENTRE FOR COMPUTING HISTORY

The Centre for Computing History is much more than a museum. Based in Cambridge, it hosts hands-on exhibitions, a wide range of activities and events, has a small shop, and runs a learning programme. Most importantly, it makes the history of computing relevant and fun for all!

FUTURE IN

FutureIN is a locally-focused program providing apprenticeship pathways within the construction sector for young people who may be homeless, at risk of homelessness, vulnerable or facing other challenges.



QUEEN EDITH'S COMMUNITY FORUM

A volunteer-led, grassroots organisation for everyone in the neighbourhood. The group produces the quarterly Queen Edith's Magazine, a free weekly "What's On" email, organises and promotes a number of community events throughout the year, and supports as many local community projects as possible.

CONCRETE ROSE CIC

Concrete Rose provides supported lodgings for young people (including care leavers, those at risk of homelessness, unaccompanied asylum seekers, and young parents). These are nurturing places, in host homes, that include exceptional levels of wrap-around support (for hosts and young people) and are founded on a therapeutic approach that is based in research and understands trauma.

TEES

We are a Legal 500 recognised law firm whose roots in Cambridge and East Anglia date back over 100 years. Our key driver is "helping people to a better future". Our business is built on long-standing relationships with the communities in which our offices are located. From a property perspective, we have a team of 40 legal advisors across East Anglia and we specialise in landlord and tenant matters for both corporates and individuals, development and strategic land, secured lending. Sarah Coates is a commercial property solicitor with some 17 years' experience of the Cambridge market. She is a partner in Tees Law, head of the Cambridge commercial property team a member of Tees Law's dedicated ESG Board, a non-exec lead Board which feeds directly into the firm's management board - [Responsible Business Report](#).



SUMMARY

Now more than ever, businesses are being held accountable for their environmental, social, and governance practices.

This shift is being driven by socially conscious consumers, investors, procurement contracts, and employees, who are increasingly questioning how businesses operate and behave, moving away from tick-box approaches to truly embedded practices.

As a result, there is growing pressure for businesses to integrate socially responsible and sustainable practices and activities into their operations at both a strategic and practical level through sustainable and meaningful partnerships with the community. We also note the benefits for businesses that take this approach, including talent attraction, employee well-being, and staff retention, among many others.

We hope this event will be one of many where the property world, together with nonprofit organisations, the public sector, and community voices, can continue to explore and celebrate how to embed responsibility into the very culture and DNA of companies and organisations as the foundation of responsible business practices.

Author - Rachel Hales - Get Synergised

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