

An illustration of a two-story brick almshouse with a brown tiled roof and a chimney. The building has several windows, some with flower boxes, and a large arched trellis structure in the garden. In the foreground, three elderly people are walking on a path: a man in a yellow jacket with a cane, a woman in a pink dress, and a man in a light blue jacket. The scene is set against a light blue sky with soft clouds.

Almshouse Resilient Communities (ARC) for the Future

An overview of the project and the Knowledge Hub



THE BARTLETT
SCHOOL OF SUSTAINABLE
CONSTRUCTION



Remarkable research
for healthy ageing
THE DUNHILL MEDICAL TRUST



University
of Suffolk
Suffolk Sustainability Institute

Almshouse Resilient Communities (ARC) for the Future



The Whiteley
Homes Trust



ARC for the Future Project

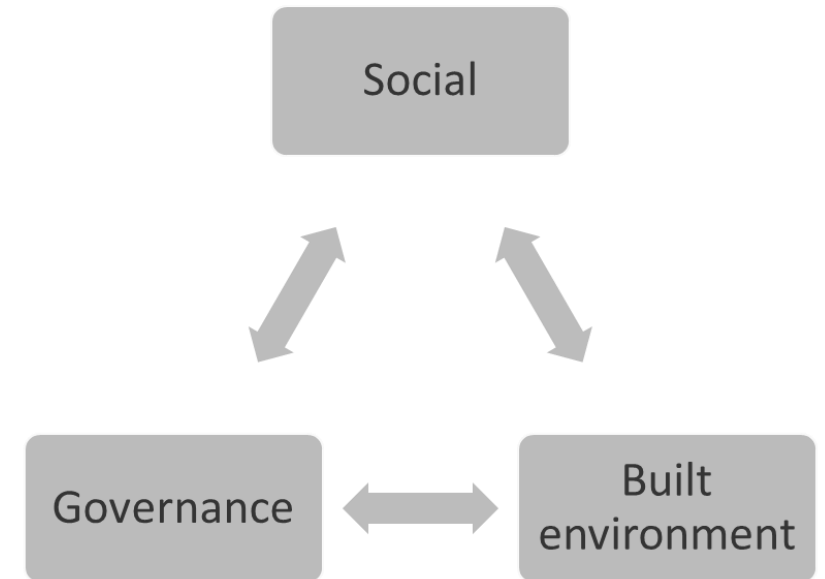
Research question: *How can almshouse communities become more resilient?*

- Almshouse communities consist of past, current, and future residents, staff, trustees, governance, buildings, and grounds

“the adaptive and learning capacity of individuals, groups and institutions to self-organise in a way that maintains system function in the face of change”

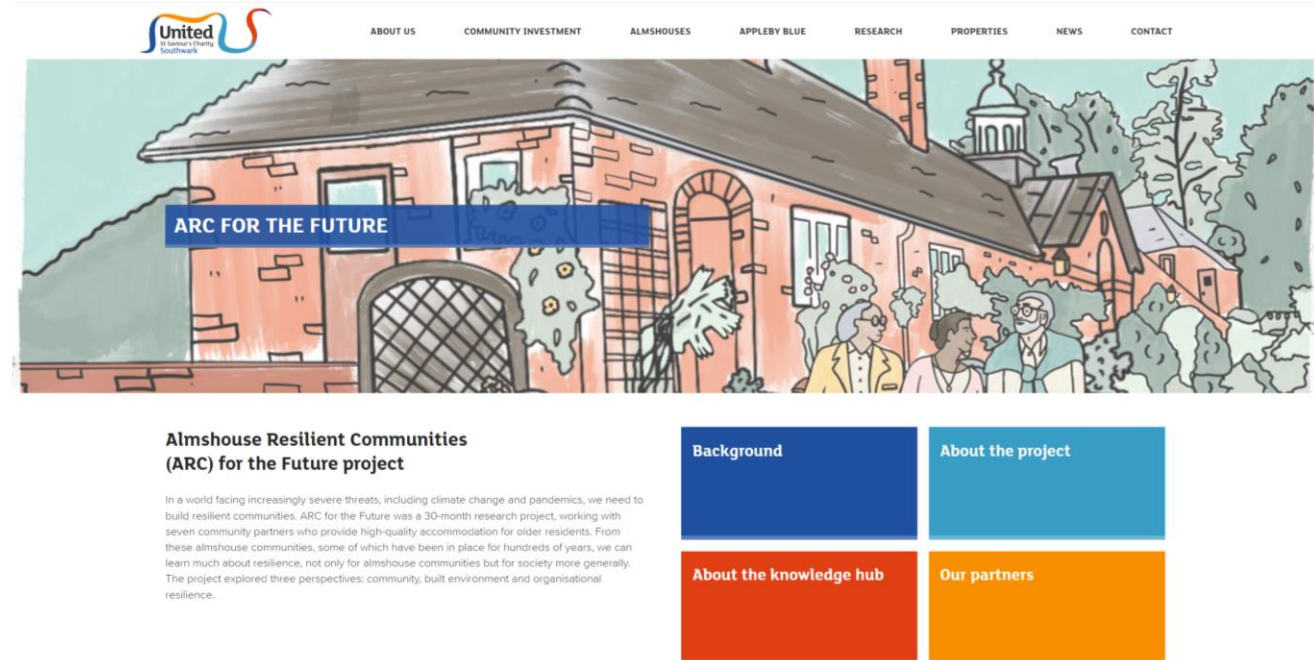
(Maclean, Cuthill & Ross, 2014)

- Approaching the question through 3 interconnected perspectives: **social/community**, **governance**, and **built environment**
- Looking for evidence of best practice, ‘what works’
- Qualitative methods: interviews or focus groups with 102 residents, staff and trustees of almshouse charities, in addition to site visits and document reviews.
- Thematic analysis, across the three perspectives.

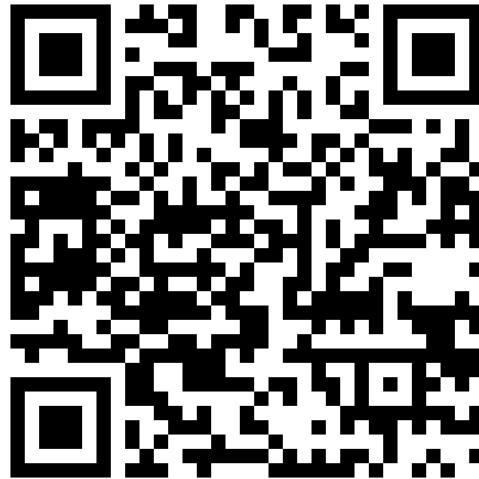


ARC for the Future Project

- Identified four overarching clusters of factors contributing to resilience
- ‘Enhancing the built environment’ includes design, maintenance, and continuing development
- ‘Valuing and supporting people’ includes individuals’ psychological resources, diversity, and developing community ties and people-place connections.
- ‘Focus on the future ’ looks at planning and aiming for stability and includes how looking ahead strengthens resilience by preparing for what might happen.
- ‘Developing and strengthening community’ is about connection, community and communication and how community resilience depends on a sense of community.



- Main output is a [KNOWLEDGE HUB](#) for residents, staff, and trustees



<https://www.ustsc.org.uk/arc-for-the-future/>

a.pooley@uos.ac.uk

<https://www.uos.ac.uk/people/alison-pooley/>