



Calder Valley Community Land Trust
The Fielden Acre: Investing in our community

Community trust pulls off successful community share issue

Trustees and members of Calder Valley Community Land Trust have celebrated this week the successful conclusion of their Fielden Acre community share issue.

The total that the volunteer-led charity was seeking from investors was £270,000, and this was reached in the first week in January, two weeks before the share offer was due to close.

The success means that the Trust can now progress to buy the houses and land immediately abutting the Fielden Hall community centre in Todmorden. This both protects the future of the community centre and makes two new houses available for renting at affordable rents.

The £270,000 has been invested by over a hundred individuals, mostly living in the upper Calder valley, as well as a £3,000 contribution from Todmorden Town Council. A £50,000 matched loan has also been obtained from the Community Shares Booster Programme.

Simon Brearley, chair of the Trust, said: "We are absolutely thrilled at the response which our share issue has attracted. We are enormously appreciative of everyone who has chosen to invest their savings with us. By doing so they are directly helping to strengthen our community and protect our local heritage".

Shares in the Community Land Trust are an investment rather than a donation, and the Trust will be offering 2% interest. The minimum investment was £250, and the maximum was £20,000.

Simon Brearley added: "Of course we're very grateful for people who have been able to invest £10,000 or £20,000 but we're equally grateful for those putting in £250. We know that the old Fielden Art School elicits warm memories for many Todmorden people and some investors have told us of their own links to the building in the past. Our share offer means that the Fielden Hall and the whole Fielden Acre will now be secure in community ownership".

The Trust is completing the purchase of the buildings and land with the help of a grant from Homes England and a loan from the Community Foundation for Calderdale.

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Note to editors

For more information including interviews & photos.

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About Calder Valley CLT

Calder Valley Community Land Trust is a member led community benefit society and charity, established to help address and meet housing needs in our part of Calderdale. Our mission is to “Work with the people of the Calder valley to hold property and create sustainable and affordable homes in vibrant communities”.

We are part of the fast-growing community-led housing network, where local people play a leading role in solving local housing problems, creating genuinely affordable homes and stronger communities in ways that are difficult through current mainstream housing.

We are proud winners of this year's Social Investment award from Social Enterprise Yorkshire & Humber.