

# PRESS RELEASE

## For Immediate Release

### **Todmorden community to come together to secure the future of a historic hall and affordable housing**

People in Todmorden and the Calder Valley are to be given the chance to invest in a new community share offer in Todmorden. The Fielden Acre community share offer, which launches online on Saturday 31st October, will seek to raise £220,000. This will allow Calder Valley Community Land Trust to buy the houses and land around the historic Fielden Hall next to Centre Vale Park in Todmorden. It will also pay for enhancing the hall's community facilities. All members of the community are invited to join the launch.

Calder Valley CLT, a locally based charitable trust, was previously gifted Fielden Hall. Now the two houses that bookend the hall have come up for sale. By buying these houses and land, the CLT can ensure they stay as affordable housing and that the whole hall remains as a community resource, stopping possible future private development on the land.

The chair of the Fielden Centre Association, which manages the Fielden Hall, said: "The Hall has been the centre of the community for a long time and is used by a multitude of people and communities.

"We do hope that the CLT is successful in their initiative. Owning the whole building and the land will enable them to keep it within the community for many years to come."

Community shares offers are an increasingly popular way to finance community owned purchases. Simon Brearley, Chair of Calder Valley CLT said:

"Pioneering philanthropist and educator Sarah Fielden helped make Todmorden the town it is today when she established a school on the site back in 1871. Now, in the

2020s, we have the chance to use community shares investment for a very modern kind of philanthropy. People can invest from £250 to £20,000. They will potentially get a 2% return on investment whilst at the same time making a contribution to the town's future.”

The CLT has already successfully attracted £50,000 matched funding from the funding programme Community Shares Booster Programme. This will be added to the total raised, when individual investors have invested £150,000.

The community shares offer is supported by actor Kevin Doyle: {HAS HE AGREED THAT THIS CAN GO IN A PRESS RELEASE? I SUSPECT NOT}

“This share offer will help keep our heritage and ensures affordable places to live. That’s why I’m delighted to support this investment in our community.”

**The launch will be held at 11am, Saturday 31st October on Zoom.**

There are more details about the launch and share offer at:

Website: [www.caldervalleyclt.org.uk/fieldenacre](http://www.caldervalleyclt.org.uk/fieldenacre)

Twitter: @CVCLT1

Hashtag: #fieldenacre

Email: [info@caldervalleyclt.org.uk](mailto:info@caldervalleyclt.org.uk)

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

### **For more information contact:**

Press, interview requests, photo requests are being handled by Lucy Meredith, Tel : 07989 503814

[lucy@leedscommunityhomes.org.uk](mailto:lucy@leedscommunityhomes.org.uk)

Eventbrite link for launch: <https://tinyurl.com/y4tj8fo5>

## **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.

## **About Community Shares**

Community Shares are a way for local communities – and other supporters – to invest in community projects. They cannot be ‘traded’; you cannot sell your shareholding on to someone else. The value of Community Shares cannot increase,. [NOT TRUE. Their value cannot ‘go down’. But the original capital can be lost. This isn’t the same thing at all. I would rather delete this bit. There are ample warnings on Ethex. I don’t think we are obliged to include this in press releases]

Community shares are withdrawable but at no more than their original value.

This share offer holds the ‘Community Shares Standard Mark’. This is awarded by the Community Shares Unit (CSU) to offers that meet national standards of good practice. These standards ensure that:

- The offer document and application form are easy to understand
- Investors are provided with all the facts you need to make an informed decision
- The facts are supported by the annual accounts and/or business plan of the society
- Nothing in the documents is purposefully incorrect, confusing or misleading

For more information about community shares, the Community Shares Standard Mark and the Community Shares Unit, go to [www.communityshares.org.uk](http://www.communityshares.org.uk)

The Community Share Booster programme, which is funded by Power to Change and the Architectural Heritage Fund, have agreed to invest £50,000 in withdrawable share capital in Calder Valley Community Land Trust if the trust raises £150,000 from other community investors.

For more information about the community share booster programme go to <https://www.communitysharesbooster.org.uk>. For more information about the Architectural Heritage Fund go to <http://ahfund.org.uk/>.