

## **CVCLT newsletter May 2021**

### **Our first job will be advertised shortly**

We anticipate that our first member of staff, the CLT's Executive Manager, will be in post from September. The position offers, we believe, an exciting opportunity for the right person to make a real impact in our development. We expect to be beginning the recruitment process later this month, and will advise everyone on this newsletter list when applications are open and where and when you can get more information.

### **How we're funding it**

The Executive Manager post is funded in large measure by a three-year grant from The National Lottery Community Fund, which we mentioned earlier in the year. But we have also just heard that Power to Change are awarding us £11,000 in post-covid support, which we will use for overhead costs (such as the office, IT support, phone bills). Thank you to both funders.

### **Coming soon – our AGM**

The main event in the democratic governance of our CLT is our members' AGM, which will be held on Saturday June 5<sup>th</sup>, 11am (by zoom). If you're one of our 255 members, you'll have received the Agenda and details of how to book your (virtual) place by email earlier this week. We hope to see you there.

Non-members are also very welcome to attend as observers. Contact our Secretary Andrew ([info@caldervalleyclt.org.uk](mailto:info@caldervalleyclt.org.uk)) for details.

### **Ready to be a trustee?**

Members at the AGM will be invited to re-elect or elect trustees for the CLT's board of trustees. We have a number of nominations already, but there is still time to consider putting yourself forward. Contact Andrew (email as above) if you could be interested.

### **HB Signal Box goes to planning**

An application is now in with Calderdale's planning department for Listed Building Consent and change of use for the decommissioned signal box in Hebden Bridge. We are also within days of submitting our main funding bid to National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The CLT has recently set up a six-strong task group (two CLT trustees and four CLT members) to handle the detailed planning work and report to the board. A newsletter (separate from this one) has been produced which is being sent to people asking for it. If you'd like the signal box newsletter emailed to you, contact us on [info@caldervalleyclt.org.uk](mailto:info@caldervalleyclt.org.uk)

### **What a rotten Spring**

The gardener who looks after the communal areas at Birks Court, our development in Walsden, has been complaining that the ground there remains wet and cold. He's been held back in his planting plans. Hopefully, the weather will take a turn for the better soon...

### **Hebden Bridge decision soon**

We have now scoped out a revised scheme for twenty quality, sustainable homes above the High Street track, which we are keen to make as 'green' and exemplary as possible. Given the topography of the site, this remains potentially an expensive development.

We hope to hear shortly whether we have been successful with a grant application to the Brownfield Housing Fund, run by W Yorkshire Combined Authority. If we have, we will then (in conjunction with our partners in the proposed development, Connect Housing) have to do some serious work on the business plan to see if we can make the development work financially. (If we do not get this funding, then a scheme of the scale and quality we want to deliver for Hebden looks very difficult, and we will have to rethink our options for this site.)

### **Meanwhile in Tod...**

... we wait to hear what Whitehall has to say about the Town Board's bid to the government's Towns Fund support (the elusive '£25m' for the town which has been talked about so much!). The bid includes some support for our proposal for affordable housing in the Rose Street area.

### **Fielden Acre**

Part of the capital we raised for the Fielden Acre was for refurbishment of the Hall and houses - for instance the back of the hall needs repointing and the roof and windows need attention. We are on the point of advertising our tender for this work and hope that work will start later in the summer.

### **Empty Properties**

We held another meeting earlier this month with Calderdale Council officers, to see how we can take over three empty properties they own in the upper valley (including two in the centre of HB). We hope that this will be shortly be possible. There are legal aspects to the arrangement, though, which have to be resolved first.

### **New York, London, Paris, Munich**

Nobody from any of these places has been in touch with us recently. But we have had calls and emails from community-led housing groups all over the country (most recently Newcastle/Northumberland, Oxfordshire and Swaledale/Arkengarthdale) and have spoken (virtually) at CLT events organised in Cornwall and Greater Manchester.

The community land trust movement is growing strongly, and we are proud to play our part in that development.

### **Can you RT please?**

If that means nothing, you don't use Twitter. If you do, could you help us by 'liking' and retweeting our tweets. You'll find us masquerading as @cvclt1