

December news

Hebden Bridge – thank you for your feedback

A big thank you to everyone who dropped in to HB Town Hall on November 26 and 27, to see our revised proposals for the High Street, Hebden Bridge site.

If you didn't get the chance to come to the drop-in sessions, don't worry: we've got information about the plans on a newly revised webpage. It's here [<https://caldervalleyclt.org.uk/hebden-bridge-2021/>]. And you can still feed in your comments, either via our website or by emailing info@caldervalleyclt.org.uk

What you told us

We had some very positive comments back during the drop-in sessions, including some people who didn't like the original 2019 plans but thought these were fine. Thank you if you said nice things!

Perhaps inevitably we also had people who didn't like what we were proposing. We're sorry we can't please everyone.

Why High Street?

One common question we're asked is why we can't build affordable homes elsewhere, say on the large site at Mytholm where Brown's Mill used to be sited. As many local people have noticed it's recently been cleared and fenced.

The answer is as you'd expect: this land is owned commercially and held in a developer's landbank. Some years ago it had planning consent for a large hotel and retail store and although this has not been progressed we expect the land owners to be looking soon either to sell on the land to another developer or to resubmit a planning bid. Whatever happens, the land is worth silly money and far beyond our pockets!

The land at High Street, by contrast, is in our ownership. And of course it's land which used to have housing until slum clearances in the 1960s. We like the idea of **rebuilding** on land where once there were people's homes.

What next for the proposal?

As we've mentioned before, the High Street plans will now be looked at again in the light of the comments we've received. We hope to be able to put a formal planning application in fairly early in the New Year – we'll keep you posted.

And the grassy bank?

There was a lot of feedback about what people thought should happen to the overgrown grassy bank between our proposed houses and Bridge Lanes, which won't now be needed for our plans. Some people like it overgrown, some would like it more landscaped, with trees and plants which could help take carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. We'll not rush to do anything here until we have a clear sense of what local people in particular want. (By the way, thank you to the offer we got after the last newsletter, to help with the forthcoming gardening work!)

Signals set to go

Our project to enable HB Signal Box to be held on behalf of the community by the CLT is attracting attention! The Yorkshire Post is the latest newspaper to run a story on our proposals. You can read the article, and also watch a video featuring CLT trustee Karin Lowson and CLT member Chris Dale here

[\[https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/heritage-and-retro/heritage/abandoned-signal-box-set-to-become-heritage-centre-in-nod-to-calder-valleys-railway-history-3482100?utm_campaign=ypos-news-api&utm_medium=email&hsmi=191041106&hsenc=p2ANqtz--jYXTTl6Eiw8iVY0iSNQNWuyHqIjwp1olWchPBgmsuomgQ50O8EAr9xNY7Irsx1SZE7vv_UbLwCQ0A8HogqzIFGEd9qA&utm_content=191041106&utm_source=hs_email\]](https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/heritage-and-retro/heritage/abandoned-signal-box-set-to-become-heritage-centre-in-nod-to-calder-valleys-railway-history-3482100?utm_campaign=ypos-news-api&utm_medium=email&hsmi=191041106&hsenc=p2ANqtz--jYXTTl6Eiw8iVY0iSNQNWuyHqIjwp1olWchPBgmsuomgQ50O8EAr9xNY7Irsx1SZE7vv_UbLwCQ0A8HogqzIFGEd9qA&utm_content=191041106&utm_source=hs_email)

Retrofitting in Hebden Bridge

We have appointed LEDA (Leeds Environmental Design Associates) working with STACK architects to work on advising us on how we can make the empty flats above One-Stop shop in Crown St, HB as environmentally sustainable as possible. As we reported last time, we have received a very welcome grant of £13,000 from the Zero Carbon fund from Calderdale Council and the Community Foundation for Calderdale to pay for this consultancy.

Jerusalem Farm update

Our proposal to lease the empty cottage (the former warden's cottage) at Jerusalem Farm, Booth from the council will go to Calderdale's Cabinet in January (along with a similar proposal for the Crown St flats).

We're grateful to the Green Building Store (based in Huddersfield) for offering us informal advice on making this cottage more energy-efficient.

We have a new Empty Properties webpage on our website with more information about both Crown St and Jerusalem Farm. <https://caldervalleyclt.org.uk/empty-properties/>

Advisory Group get-together planned

We launched an informal Advisory Group a year ago, made up of supporters of our CLT who have offered to share their knowledge, experience and expertise with us as and when we need it. Thank you if you volunteered to join (we haven't needed to call on many people in recent months – although we were very grateful to Malcolm B who helped us with advice on a necessary land drain at Walsden!)

Because of covid we haven't had the 2020 Advisory Group get-together we'd hoped, but we are planning something for early in 2022.

This is a good moment therefore to ask you – if you're not already on the Advisory Group – whether you have skills and experience you could offer. Please don't be shy! New members of the Group very much welcomed. Email us on info@caldervalleyclt.org.uk.

Mytholmroyd Hub

We've been pleased to hear about the active community efforts in Mytholmroyd to maintain a library service in the village as part of a wider initiative to create a proper 'Community Hub'. We've been having early discussions with two of the Mytholmroyd

town councillors involved, Val Stevens and Geoff Wood, to see how the CLT might be able to help in these plans. (We've been keen for a long time for the CLT to be engaged in Mytholmroyd as well as Tod and HB).

Thank you to Maggie

A big thank you to Maggie Smallwood, who has been a CLT trustee for very many years but who has decided to step down from the board at the end of 2021. Maggie has been particularly involved in our work with the Fielden Centre Association to help make Fielden Hall (even more) successful, and she was the coordinator of the 2020-1 Fielden Acre Community Share issue. You'll be missed, Maggie!

Forward into 2022

We're part of a national movement which is growing fast and doing some amazing things to bring community-led housing to Britain's cities, towns and villages. We're looking forward to continuing our work during 2022.

We wish you all a very enjoyable festive season, and a happy and productive New Year. On we go!