

Looking forward to the opportunities of 2022

A little belated perhaps, but never mind: can we wish you all our very best wishes for the New Year ahead. Let's hope that that 2022 is an easier year than 2021!

We're looking forward very positively to the opportunities for our CLT over the next twelve months. As you'll know from this and past newsletters, we've a lot of plans under way to make a real difference in our valley. The housing crisis remains just as acute as ever, and we believe bottom-up community-led housing initiatives like ours can start to show the way to a better and fairer future.

(...And we're still expecting Hebden Bridge signal box to come our way in 2022, too!)

Green light for empty properties

We're delighted to report that Calderdale council's Cabinet agreed on Jan 17th to a leasehold arrangement with the CLT for three properties which they own and which are currently empty.

These are the two flats above the OneStop shop in Crown Street, Hebden Bridge and the former warden's cottage at the Jerusalem Farm campsite in Booth, in the Luddenden valley.

We can now progress to complete the legal work with the council, and start the retrofitting work we've been planning to bring all three properties up to a high standard of energy efficiency.

We anticipate opening the allocation process for prospective tenants later in the Summer, and we will advise you when this happens through the newsletter and on our website. If you are in housing need, we would urge you to register as soon as possible with KeyChoice (what has replaced the old council waiting list). We believe that by using KeyChoice system when the Walsden bungalows were completed in 2020 we had a fair and transparent way of making the best allocation decisions.

Interest on Birks Court investments

If you were one of the investors in our community shares for the Birks Court bungalow development you should have received an email from us in the past few days, together with a new share certificate representing the interest you've earned. (We capitalise the interest due and thereafter pay compound interest on the full amount, but if you would rather have the interest in cash simply tell us and let us have your bank details).

If you invested in the CLT for our Fielden Acre share issue a year ago, there's no interest due yet. However your money has been earning interest since Jan 1st this year. We will contact you with the interest details this time next year.

Interested in investing?

We are now keeping a waiting list of people potentially interested in investing in the CLT in the future. If you are interested in being added to this list, please contact our

Exec Manager Paul on manager@caldervalleyclt.org.uk. ('Without obligation', as they say!)

Mayor to visit our Walsden development

We're delighted that Tracy Brabin, Mayor of West Yorkshire, has accepted our invitation to visit the CLT's bungalows at Birks Court, Walsden. Her visit is in early March.

We believe CLTs and community-led housing groups are already doing great things across our region but there's more that could be done and we are keen that the Mayor gets the message. We know that she's already sympathetic to our work.

Grant for Hebden Bridge costs

We had a welcome pre-Christmas fillip when we heard that we had been successful in bidding for funds from the government's Community Housing Fund for our proposed Hebden Bridge development (the old High Street site near the Fox & Goose).

This grant will enable us to pay the planning fees on a future planning application (yes, we have to pay just the same planning fees as any commercial developer would), as well as necessary surveys and reports.

We are still working hard on the High Street proposals, taking on board the comments we've received at and since our public consultations in November. We hope to have more definite news of the way forward here next month.

Fielden Centre celebrates 150 years

The beautiful Fielden Centre in Todmorden will mark its 150th anniversary this year, and (as the building's legal custodian) the CLT is delighted to be supporting the Fielden Centre Association's plans to make a real celebratory splash.

In particular there will be an exhibition to mark the story of the building, from the time when pioneering philanthropist Sarah Fielden opened it as a school through its time as an Art School and then its sad decline – and rebirth! The full details of the event will be available shortly. We'll let you know.

And in the meantime, don't forget that you can book the Centre for all sorts of events and functions. Details at www.fieldenhall.com.

Advisory Group get-together put back

The dreaded omicron has meant that we've had to postpone the get-together for CLT Advisory Group members we'd originally planned for January, but we hope it will be possible a little later in the Spring. And if you have skills and experience to offer and would like to join our Advisory Group please don't hesitate to get in touch: manager@caldervalleyclt.org.uk.