

CVCLT News Feb 2022

### **Vacancies!**

CVCLT is looking to increase the size of its board by one or two new trustees.

You'll be joining our team of hard working and committed trustees, taking forward the strategic development of our local Community Land Trust. Unpaid, but definitely rewarding work!

We are keen to increase our board of trustees' diversity (including in terms of age profile, gender and ethnicity). We are also interested in recruiting a trustee with journalistic, PR and/or social media experience. However we are very happy to hear from you, whatever your skills or background. Please email our Chair Simon on [simon.brearley@caldervalleyclt.org.uk](mailto:simon.brearley@caldervalleyclt.org.uk) initially. And don't be shy!

### **Hebden Bridge plans are developing**

We've been working very hard in recent weeks over our proposed development on the land at High Street, Hebden Bridge (the site of former housing, between Bridge Lanes and Heptonstall Rd).

Our trustee task group overseeing the planning has held a series of meetings with our architects and with Calderdale officers. We've also commissioned further surveys, including surveys on water flow across the site and retaining walls.

We are anticipating submitting our planning application before the end of March.

### **News from our Secretary**

Andrew Bibby, who has been CVCLT's Secretary since the early days in 2013-14, is giving very advance notice that he plans to step down as a trustee at the 2022 AGM (to be held in May or June).

Andrew says: "It's been enormously satisfying being able to play a part in the CLT's growth, but I'm very conscious that every community organisation needs to develop and change and sometimes founder members can inadvertently hold back progress. With Paul Brannigan now in post as our Executive Manager and with a strong board of trustees also in place, I feel that this summer will be the right time for me to say my farewells."

The board has already discussed (at the February trustee meeting) the practical and operational implications of Andrew's departure and will be working over the next three to four months to ensure that the transition is a very smooth one. As you'll have read above, among other things we are looking to bring the board of trustees' size back to eleven or twelve members.

### **Empty properties being passed to the CLT**

Following last month's decision by Calderdale Council's Cabinet to pass leasehold ownership of three empty properties to the CLT (two flats above a shop in Hebden Bridge and the former warden's cottage at Jerusalem Farm outdoor centre), we have been researching in detail the way we can bring all three properties into good

condition and make them as energy efficient as possible. All three have been empty for some time, and will need work to make them habitable again.

Bringing empty properties back into use can be a useful way of both increasing the amount of affordable housing in the Calder Valley and making better use of an existing building. CVCLT is hoping that this area of our work will develop. We're considering the best way to tackle this serious problem.

### **Talking about Todmorden...**

It may after all be possible for the CLT to take a role in the exciting transformation of the central area of Todmorden. We're in early discussions with the council and the Town Board about taking on responsibility for the proposed enterprise centre near Bramsche Square. The enterprise centre forms part of the Tod Town Fund proposals and will be a valuable resource for helping the town's economic growth. The current idea is to include an element of affordable housing above the enterprise centre proper. Work-life balance!

### **...and hearing about Heptonstall**

We were pleased that Mark Simmonds, who is very involved in the new community benefit society Heptonstall Community Assets, was able to join us as an observer at our February trustee meeting. This new initiative, which will be taking the Post Office in the village into community ownership, is also potentially interested in helping create more affordable housing in the village. We look forward to a fruitful partnership with HCA in the time ahead.

### **Signal box progress**

It finally looks as if Network Rail and our grant funder the National Lottery Heritage Fund have sorted out a technical issue over a potential break clause in our proposed lease of the Hebden Bridge signal box. That's very encouraging news.

Everything to do with our railways seems to operate on an extraordinarily slow timeline, but we are now hopeful of (finally) being able to take over this grade II heritage building very shortly.

### **An invitation! Advisory group social March 12**

We're inviting our CLT's Advisory Group members, along with representatives of other CLT partner organisations, to an informal social at the Fielden Hall, 5pm on Sat March 12<sup>th</sup>. This is the first time we've actually brought all our Advisory Group members together since we launched the Group and recruited its first members more than a year ago. (Covid is the reason, of course).

Tell us if you are interested in joining the Advisory Group (we call on members for their advice when we have particular need for expertise or specialist knowledge). And feel welcome to come along to the social: all CLT members and supporters will be very welcome too. (Please RSVP to Paul on [manager@caldervalleyclt.org.uk](mailto:manager@caldervalleyclt.org.uk) if you'd like to come along).

The date has been chosen to coincide with the weekend when the fascinating exhibition celebrating 150 years of the Fielden Hall will be on display. Don't forget that the exhibition is open to the public from Sat 12<sup>th</sup>-Sun 13<sup>th</sup> March, 10am- 4pm.