**Election statements**

**John Berry**

Hi All. I was elected to the Board three years ago and am now, as required by our democratic rules, stepping down. This is intended to ensure that no Board member can have life tenure by default and must refer themselves to the membership for re-election if they wish to continue to serve this Trust. I am happy to do so and am offering my services for another three years as there is still a lot to do.

Much has already changed in the World and the Trust since 2019 and both now look different; but it the case of the Trust it is definitely a positive story. When I joined the Trust’s Board, it was operating on a shoestring with a very restricted and insecure income; it had no office, no affordable homes for rent, very limited IT support and no paid staff. Now the situation is transformed, we have all these things and secure funding in the medium term. Achieving this has taken considered effort, throughout those three years, drawing on the time and skills of all our Board members.

My particular knowledge of; social housing management, housing financial planning, and the IT systems that support them these days, has proven very helpful in achieving high standards of service to our tenants, both now and in the future. The housing management agreement made with Connect Housing Association, which shares our ethics, has proven to be the affordable key that made this possible. In addition we ourselves are ensuring that financial provision is made from the rent income to repair and upgrade our homes as time moves on.

If all its plans come to fruition, by the end of the next three years, the Trust will have somewhere near 50 tenants living in environmentally friendly low cost (rent **and** energy bills) homes. This also means the issue of tenant involvement and engagement with the Trust will have become central to its role as a responsible social landlord. I hope my long experience of living in, and working with, Housing Co-operatives will enable me to assist the Trust’s development in this area.

Finally, I am looking forward to the Trust involving itself with the effort to bring empty properties in the Valley back into productive, sustainable use. This doesn’t just have to be housing, it can be enterprises like the Signal Box too. None of it will be easy, but to paraphrase JFK, we’re not doing it because it’s the easy thing but because it’s the right thing.

**Melvin Coleman**

I’m a retired Scottish Chartered Accountant now living in Todmorden. I offered myself for election to the Board because of my concern about the lack of truly affordable, high quality and sustainably built homes in the valley. Since joining the Board I’ve set up and chaired the Audit Committee and work closely with the Treasurer. I’m also involved in our bids for the Todmorden Town Deal projects at the Fielden Hall and the Enterprise Centre.

 I’ve been involved in the voluntary sector all my life - founding member of the first publicly funded Law Centre in the UK, Treasurer of Liberty & of the Public Law Project & of Business & Human Rights Resource Centre. I was actively involved in the tenants’ movement and was one of those who occupied Centrepoint in the 1970s as a protest over the housing crisis in London. My last job was with Amnesty International and on retirement I chaired its charitable trust until this year.

I would be delighted to be elected to serve as a Trustee for a further term.

**Richard Henderson**

I have been a trustee of CVCLT for the last six years, during which time I my primary focus has been the High Street development, where I am an active member of High Street Task Group. This development is at a fairly crucial stage, and I would like to see it through the planning consent phase. Previously, I have also represented CVCLT on the Community Led Housing support project, which aimed to support new community housing groups get started. I am retired, after 40 years of working the financial services sector and I have experience in project management and a wide range of business disciplines. My main interest is in improving the environmental performance and the design quality of affordable housing. If I'm elected I am looking to help CVCLT deliver our new build housing objectives.

**Kala Wild**

My name is Kala Wild, I was a CVCLT trustee for a number of years but had to stand down due to additional family commitments. I now have renewed capacity and would love the opportunity to participate in the board and its innovative work in the Calder Valley.

I have 4 children and have lived in Hebden most of my life... my parents moved here in the early 70’s and were part of the squatters movement. My children are growing up here and I feel invested in ensuring the feeling of community and mutual support continues into the future. In my professional life I have been involved in delivering safe accommodation and support to women and children fleeing domestic abuse, developing and facilitating equality networks for the voluntary and community sector and commissioning services.