

CVCLT news January 2023

Public meetings

We've been very quiet on the newsletter front, but our communication was directed into 3 very successful public meetings with great speakers coming from as far as Italy and fantastic contributions from around 200 attendees. If you want to listen, the recordings for Decent Homes in Older Age, Retrofitting and Impact of Airbnb on Affordable Homes are here <https://caldervalleyclt.org.uk/our-public-meetings/>

From public meetings to affordable home opportunities

Mytholmroyd: Friends of public meeting attendees have offered to donate land to the Land Trust. As it does not flood, we are investigating its suitability for creating homes or a community garden. The legal work is about to begin.

Hebden Bridge: A member from Hebden Bridge is working with us to sell his home to us at a discounted price. Under our ownership it will be protected from becoming an Airbnb and instead will be an affordable rented home. Most of the financial viability work is done, just a couple of more hurdles to negotiate and some fundraising.

Heptonstall: Another person who wishes to sell their home to us, so it becomes an affordable rented community asset. They refused an offer from an Airbnb investor. Early days on this one, but we have identified a way this could work.

New members: We welcomed a dozen new members who signed up at our public meetings. We are 20 members away from the magic 300. More members create more homes and attract more funding. Joining or encouraging friends, family and colleagues to join using this link <https://forms.gle/7Jnh6NhMVNJHNVBE6> will make a difference.

£150,000 for Fielden Hall in Todmorden

In partnership with other projects in Todmorden's Centre Vale Park we were successful in securing Town Deal funding from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. Our goal is to reduce the building's impact on climate change and reduce energy bills. It will take another £250k to make this Victorian building net zero. We would love to hear ideas from you as to where we might find the additional funds.

High Street, Hebden Bridge update

We submitted our revised plans for 20 affordable rented homes in June, but we do not have a planning committee date yet.

Finance or bookkeeping skills?

Opportunities to create homes comes with additional finance work. If you can offer time to support our treasurer, then please drop our chair Simon Brearley an email on simon.brearley@caldervalleyclt.org.uk or give our manager Paul a call on 07942 361205.

The work is interesting and involves finding creative ways to create budgets that help bring much needed affordable homes to the Upper Calder Valley.

Todmorden enterprise centre and homes

A decision from government on the business case for a new enterprise centre in the centre of Todmorden is imminent. We agreed to take on this project on condition we could create 1 and 2 bed affordable rented homes too.

Signal Box

In July's newsletter we wrote "almost there now!". We have been assured that all the barriers to completing the lease have been addressed. We are grateful to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for their patience. Almost there?

The Signal Box Heritage group is meeting regularly and uncovering a wonderful history. We have signallers and enthusiasts involved. If you would like to help bring Hebden Bridge Signal Box history to life then get in touch.

We are looking for someone to take on a 6-month paid role to deliver the heritage aspect of the Signal Box. If you have previous experience on similar projects, please get in touch.

Crown Street and Jerusalem Farm Cottage

We are working with CMBC to bring these properties back into use.

CVCLT and the housing team at Calderdale see a great fit for Crown Street with a government funding opportunity to house refugees from Ukraine/Afghanistan. We are progressing an application. When the demand from refugees dissipates the homes would be made available for those who are homeless or vulnerably housed.

Jerusalem Farm Cottage is a more difficult project to deliver, but the need for rural affordable homes is high, so our work continues to find a sustainable solution.

Date for your diary

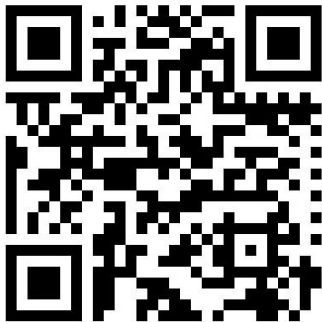
Saturday 4th February: **These Houses Are Ours** book launch from author and a founder of the Land Trust, Andrew Bibby. Described as “a significant historical record and a primer for those who would learn from the past to democratise our current housing practice”. Discussion, wine and soft drinks between 5pm-6pm in Hebden Bridge Town Hall café. More information here <https://gritstonecoop.co.uk/product/ab-houses/>

Do you have ideas for topics for our 2023 *Housing – It's an Issue!* public meetings? Please share them with us.

Data controller, data protection experience sought

We have a very helpful advisory panel and are looking for someone with the above experience to join the panel. The commitment is likely to be a few hours at first then some occasional monitoring.

Can you help us get to 300 members by encouraging friends, families and colleagues to join? Scan here to become a member.



And finally...retrofitting

At our retrofit public meeting people were asking how can we learn about retrofitting? With that in mind Richard Howarth shared his experience of retrofitting his home with us and we thought you might be interested too <https://inglehome.co.uk/>