

CVCLT news August 2023

It's been a while since our last newsletter. We've been incredibly busy progressing bringing affordable rented homes closer to opening, hence being a bit quiet.

## **Enterprise centre & housing in Todmorden**

We signed the Todmorden Town Deal grant agreement to secure £3.8m to create an enterprise centre in Todmorden. It will be fantastic to have modern energy efficient offices in Todmorden, but our prime motivation in taking on the project is because it will enable us to create new affordable rented homes too.

Due to flooding related objections from the Environment Agency the site on Rose Street is no longer an option. CMBC cabinet have approved a recommendation to offer CVCLT an alternative site. This larger site once housed the Ferney Lee Care Home and could hold more houses than Rose Street. The deadline for completing the project has not changed and we are carefully and quickly considering the feasibility of starting afresh on a new site and meeting that deadline.

## **32 applications for one home**

Sadly, one of our tenants died in June. We advertised the property and received 32 applications which demonstrates the desperate need for decent affordable rented homes in the valley. Our new tenant is moving from a building that has seen a significant increase in anti-social behaviour and is looking forward to a much happier life at Birks Court.

## **Reducing Fielden Hall's impact on climate change**

We are working with a grant funding specialist and the Fielden Centre Association (FCA) to complete multiple grant applications. The dedicated volunteers at the FCA look after the operation of Fielden Hall's many community uses and host weddings. The land trust looks after the building. Our target is £250,000 to add to the £150,000 from DLUHC's Town Deal fund.

## **An affordable rented community asset for Hebden Bridge**

We are working with a member to bring his house into community ownership. The solicitors are beavering away, and Homes England are reviewing our grant application. The finishing line draws near, and we look forward to sharing the project with you via 3 open days (1 before we start retrofit work, 1 during the work and 1 after the work).

## **Annual General Meeting**

That was a lively event! 40 people came along, shared ideas and dug deeper into our work. Your participation gives us added energy to deliver more homes. Thank you to the 4 people who offered to get more involved, and we will be in touch soon.

## Membership survey

103 of our 300 members took time to respond and for that we are very grateful. Trustee Kala Wild is analysing the responses and we will share her findings in our next newsletter.

Every new member makes a difference. Please continue to encourage more people to join. You can do this by sharing the link or the QR code below. Or meet our manager Paul to join in person, which our newest member did. Hearing about her very difficult housing situation gave us added motivation to create more affordable homes.

[Click](#) or scan to help create affordable homes by becoming a member.



## Refugee homes in Hebden Bridge

We are hoping CMBC's legal team will complete their work soon, which will release the money needed to for us to transform these 2 tired, but well-constructed empty properties into affordable rented town centre homes. Once the refugee need dissipates the homes will become available to meet the local housing need.

## Trustees and advisory panel

Thank you to trustee Cathy Wheatcroft for all your hard work and support. You will be missed, and we wish you well for the future.

*There is a fund raiser / grant applier sized hole in our advisory panel. The time commitment is absolutely down to you, but we would love to have a chat with anyone interested.*

To get more involved, please drop our chair Simon Brearley an email at [simon.brearley@caldervalleyclt.org.uk](mailto:simon.brearley@caldervalleyclt.org.uk) or give our manager Paul a call on 07942 361205.

## **Signal Box**

We have signed the lease on the signal box in Hebden Bridge. When it comes back with Network Rail's signature we can get started. Thank you to tenacious trustee Karin Lawson for sticking with this one.

*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.*

## **Autumn public meetings**

We welcome your ideas for topics for the 2023 *Housing – It's an Issue!* meetings. We are considering one the competing factors in creating affordable homes and one on how young people can find an affordable home. Email Paul with your ideas at [manager@caldervalleyclt.org.uk](mailto:manager@caldervalleyclt.org.uk).

## **Thank you**

Thank you to the Community Foundation for Calderdale for always being open to listening to our ideas about Upper Valley homes and community buildings. Oh, and for giving out £1,323,257 in grants since the start of the year!!

## **And finally...**

Here's something we made earlier <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C1nZrZxkGac> and we have a new video coming in the autumn.

Thank you for being involved.