

John Berry *

Hi! I was co-opted onto the CVCLT board at the beginning of this year and since then I have been attending its meetings and helping with the development of policy on tenancies and participation as well as starting to serve in the Birks Lane and High St Task Groups. I am getting up to speed on these developments by attending site meetings at Birks Lane and being involved in reassessing the plans for High St, following its rejection by Calderdale's Planning Committee. I have a background in Co-operative housing management and development going back to the 1970s and in the 1980s I was Chair of Solon Co-operative Housing Services, which provided development services to Housing Co-operatives in North and East London. Until I moved to Hebden in 2011, I had lived in housing co-ops continuously since 1979.

Out of this has emerged my firm conviction that property owned and managed for and by the community will always be much a greater asset to that community than that owned by external bodies. This is because the accumulating wealth generated by that property will remain within the community rather than being extracted. This is true for both community enterprises and community social housing; indeed there can be a highly beneficial synergy between the two. Over time such accumulated wealth in local hands significantly empowers that community relative to predatory external developers and their ilk.

I am a member of the CVCLT and am now standing for election to the board so that I can continue to actively support its continuing growth and increasing service and value to the community.

Melvin Coleman *

I'm a retired Scottish Chartered Accountant now living in Todmorden. I offered myself for co-option to the Board last Autumn because of my real 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've been involved in the voluntary sector all my life - founding member of the first publicly funded Law Centre, 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 Centrepoin in the 1970s as a protest over the housing crisis in London. My last job was with Amnesty International and I now chair its charitable trust.

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 three years during which time I have been an active member of the High Street development and Community shares task groups and, more recently, the Community Led Housing support project. I have recently retired the financial services sector and have experience in project management and a wide range of business disciplines. My main interest is in improving the environmental and health performance and the design quality of affordable housing. If I'm elected I am looking to help CVCLT deliver our objectives both through our own projects and by supporting others to create great, available and affordable homes.

Kala Wild *

My name is Kala Wild. I am 44, I have 4 children and I have lived in Hebden most of my life... I am motivated by the idea that we all need a place to call home. I would like to become a CVCLT trustee to support the positive and lasting work they are doing to develop more affordable housing in this area. I work for a domestic violence service and am currently developing the housing offer for the charity, setting them up as a registered social landlord. I have over 14 years' experience in the voluntary sector creating networks and developing partnerships. I recently worked for Calderdale as a voluntary sector commissioner and led an innovative alliance contract. I think I could bring my networking skills, creative thinking and lived experience of the upper valley to the board.

* Co-opted following 2018 AGM

Three year term served, standing for re-election