

Our latest news

July 2019

What's afoot in Walsden?

If you're anywhere near Walsden, and in particular if you're anywhere near Birks Lane and the canal bridge near the church, you'll be able to see how our development there is progressing.

As you'll probably know, we're leading on the development of six independent-living bungalows designed for older people. The external and internal walls are now more or less complete for the bungalows nearest Birks Lane, and we understand from the builders that the scaffolding will soon be up to enable the roofs to be done.

There's still a long way to go (the contractual completion date is the start of December), but the time will pass quickly. The bungalows should have their first residents very early in 2020.

Thank you to investors

About £60,000 of the capital needed for the Walsden development is coming in the form of interest-bearing community share investments by a number of local people. This is a pilot, in advance of the much bigger community share issue we hope to launch for the Hebden Bridge development, as and when that is able to be progressed. If you're investing in Walsden, you will already have received a letter from our Secretary. We're asking for cheques to be returned to us, for banking at the start of August.

Who will live in Walsden?

Although we have not completely decided yet the allocation procedure we will use for the four Walsden bungalows we are retaining, we anticipate using the KeyChoice system run by Together Housing (what was once the council housing list). So if you know someone local who is potentially eligible for one of the bungalows, please advise them to register their housing circumstances and needs with KeyChoice. (Two of the bungalows will be acquired at cost price by the local almshouse charity John Eastwood Homes, and a slightly different allocation procedure will apply to these.) Contact our Secretary Andrew Bibby on info@caldervalleyclt.org.uk who will explain what to do in both cases.

Supporting community-led housing locally

Our project to support other community-led housing (CLH) initiatives in Calderdale is now well established. CLH can mean, among other things, co-housing, housing co-operatives and self-build initiatives, as well as housing ventures by other established community-based organisations. Contact us on projects@caldervalleyclt.org.uk if you would like to talk through an idea.

More work on Hebden Bridge

A task group comprising several CLT trustees, together with a number of CLT members who have also volunteered to get involved, are looking at the way forward for the proposed High Street development in Hebden Bridge. This follows our members' decision at our AGM to explore further options for the site, and not at this

stage to walk away.

Meetings have been arranged with, among others, our architects, and a number of possibilities which we feel would meet the concerns expressed by those councillors who voted against our original plans are being looked at. More news as soon as we have something definite to report.

Signals are (almost) green for go

After a long period, we are now in serious negotiations with Network Rail about the possibility of the decommissioned (and Grade II listed) signal box in Hebden Bridge coming into community ownership. We are working closely with the Friends of HB Station and with a new group, the HB Signal Box Preservation Group, to build a strong business case for an asset transfer of the signal box. The likely outcome would be that the CLT becomes the legal custodian of the building, with the hands-on work of looking after the box and restoring it to its 1890s glory being undertaken by members of the Preservation Group.

We are working hard on the business plan, and have also made two funding applications for help in initial feasibility work. Our proposal is to combine public heritage weekends for the signal box (hopefully, giving people the additional experience of operating the signals and taking virtual trains through the Hebden Bridge section), with the provision of quirky overnight accommodation – the latter being necessary to ensure that there is an income stream in the long-term coming in to meet ongoing servicing costs and maintenance.

If you are interested in this project, let our Secretary know:
info@caldervalleyclt.org.uk.

New website for Fielden Hall

Congratulations to the Fielden Centre Association, who have recently launched a very impressive new website <http://www.fieldenhall.com/>. A reminder that the FCA manages this lovely Victorian building beside Centre Vale park in Todmorden, which is available for a host of community and private functions including weddings. The CLT acts as the legal custodian of the building.

Not yet a CLT member?

There are now over 140 of us locally who have joined as members of Calder Valley CLT. If you're not yet a member, you can join by visiting our website at <http://caldervalleyclt.org.uk/get-involved/>.

Getting involved

Can we also remind you that we actively welcome members' engagement in our work, including on our various project task groups, so there is a real opportunity to contribute to the CLT's development. Again – just email us!