

# **Calder Valley CLT news**

## **March 2020**

### **Our new bungalows**

#### **A great celebration**

Thank you if you were able to be with us for the 'Open Doors' celebration at Birks Court, Walsden on Saturday February 29<sup>th</sup>.

We had well over a hundred people present, there to have a look round the new bungalows, listen to the Tod Community Brass Band and witness the Mayors of Calderdale and Todmorden plant a flowering cherry tree at the entrance to the site (and formally declare the CLT's first development finished!).

Not only that, but the refreshments raised over £140 for the Todmorden Food Drop In and as there is one collecting box still to be opened we can confidently predict that the day raised over £150. All the cakes were donated so thanks to all the bakers and to head baker and refreshment organiser Jenny Coleman, ably assisted by granddaughter Erin Walton.

#### **Some lovely comments**

We were really encouraged by some of the comments in the Visitors' Book we had available on Saturday. "Beautiful!", "Inspirational", "What an amazing achievement", "Very impressive". Thank you for all your kind words.

#### **Tenants hand-over next Sunday**

We were delighted that three of our new residents were able to be with us for the celebration. They, and our other tenants, will be given their keys next Sunday (March 8) – and thereafter the bungalows become their homes. John Eastwood Homes, who have two of the six bungalows, will also be welcoming their new residents within the next few days.

#### **A few thank yous**

Among those coming along to the Walsden celebration were representatives of organisations who have helped make the project possible, It was good to welcome (on their days off, too!) officers from Homes England and Calderdale council. The Quaker Housing Trust (who contributed an interest-free loan and grant) were represented by several members of the local Quaker meeting.

#### **Allocation Panel**

We asked Cath Miller from Calderdale Council and Martyn Broadest from Connect Housing to give up their time to join two of our CLT trustees on our Allocations Panel for the bungalows.

The Panel met a fortnight ago, reviewing the applicants whose names had been given to us from Calderdale's Keychoice housing priority list. After having to rule out applicants who did not meet the age criteria (65+) or the Todmorden residency requirement (10 years +), the Panel selected the couples and single people in order of their Keychoice priority. We are delighted to be able to offer our new tenants their new homes – but our pleasure is tinged with regret that we couldn't give homes to everyone else who applied and were clearly in housing need.

Thank you to Cath and Martyn for their help.

## **The landscaping at Walsden**

The cherry tree planted by the Mayors on Feb 29<sup>th</sup> is currently rather on its own, with a great deal of mud surrounding the new bungalows. Rest assured that as soon as the weather improves grass seed will be sown and shrubs and trees planted.

## **Membership**

### **Welcome to new members**

We are pleased to welcome nine new members of the Community Land Trust, who joined during the Open Doors event – and for whom this will be their first CLT newsletter.

We are now up to 156 members of the Trust – that's 156 local people who support the CLT's aims and are engaging in our activities.

### **New membership leaflet**

We're still keen to increase our membership to over the 200 mark and we have a new membership leaflet just back from the printers. If you can take copies to display somewhere, let us know. [info@caldervalleyclt.org.uk](mailto:info@caldervalleyclt.org.uk). It's possible to complete the form online as well.

### **Annual General Meeting on May 16**

This is probably an appropriate place to mention that we have fixed our 2020 Annual General Meeting for the morning of Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup>. All members will get full details nearer the time.

The venue is the Fielden Hall in Todmorden – the building for which of course the CLT is the legal custodian.

## **Our other projects**

### **Signals are good to go in Hebden Bridge**

The CLT is coordinating efforts to ensure a long-term sustainable future for Hebden Bridge signal box, which is grade-II listed but which is now unused. There will be a meeting for those interested in getting involved in the newly established HB Signal Box Preservation Group on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>, 3pm, HB Town Hall (use the side entrance, please). We will be at the door at 3pm to let people in; if you arrive late, please phone 07989 965315.

### **Plans for Fielden Hall**

We are pleased to be able to report a small grant from the Community Housing Fund (from the government via Homes England), which will enable us to progress initial feasibility work for our proposed acquisition of the two residential houses attached to the Fielden Hall.

We are planning a Community Share Issue, which we expect to launch this Spring. We want to raise at least £100,000.

### **Hebden Bridge**

We have also received feasibility funding from the Community Housing Fund to do some more work on the proposed development at High St, Hebden Bridge, which among other things will enable us to see whether we can meet the planning objections raised by the Planning Committee a year ago. This new work will take some time, so don't expect immediate progress here.