

## **CLT newsletter May 2020**

It's time for our regular newsletter and we've got lots to tell you. We want to reassure you that, despite everything, Calder Valley Community Land Trust is still keeping very active.

Our main news is that we have fixed our Annual General Meeting for Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup>, 10.30am-12 noon, and – guess what – we will be using Zoom video technology to make it happen. Save the date!

If you are one of our 159 members you will be getting the formal invitation, along with the agenda, early in June. The 2019 accounts and other AGM papers will be available for you beforehand on our website.

### **Not yet a member?**

If you are simply interested in the work of the CLT but haven't yet acquired your £1 member's share, you will also be welcome as an observer at the AGM. We'll tell you shortly how to register. However, this is a really good time to take the plunge and show your support for our work by becoming a member! Go to <http://caldervalleyclt.org.uk/get-involved/>

### **Just in time!**

Well, in hindsight the Walsden bungalows were completed just in the nick of time. We are pleased to say that our residents moved in just before lock-down and we understand are already feeling at home.

### **Our trustees remain busy**

Our last two board meetings have been held using Zoom, and both went off very smoothly. In fact, we found that we got through the business rather quicker than we normally do (now why might that be?).

### **The national picture**

Several of our trustees have been participating in Zoom discussions organised by the National CLT Network. It's always interesting to know what CLTs are doing elsewhere, and there is now a great deal of collective experience in the movement. We've been approached recently for advice by two CLTs considering going through the procedure to become 'Registered Providers' of social housing. Since we are one of the few CLTs with RP status we've been pleased to offer what advice we can.

We have also been hearing about how other CLTs try to measure their social impact and community engagement, something we'd like to do better. So, watch this space for more on this.

## **Board vacancies**

Advance news that we anticipate beginning a recruitment process shortly to bring in one or two new trustees. We'll have all the details of what's involved shortly, and we will give information in the June newsletter.

## **HB Signal Box**

We now have detailed plans from our architect Jacquie Milham and costings from our quantity surveyor Andrew Webster, to enable us to progress the project and seek grant funding. The Railway Heritage Trust has in principle agreed to part-fund the work, but the National Lottery Heritage Fund (with whom we have discussed a possible funding bid) are not currently accepting new applications, because of covid-19. There is therefore an inevitable hiatus.

Once we have been able to submit a bid to the Heritage Fund we will also be able to go back to Network Rail, to negotiate the details of the proposed leasehold transfer.

## **Fielden Hall**

The covid-19 lockdown has also put back our timetable for progressing feasibility work to acquire the two residential houses attached to the Fielden Hall, next to Centre Vale park in Todmorden. Inevitably we have had to postpone the proposed Community Share Issue until later, hopefully later this year.

## **Hebden Bridge**

As mentioned in our last newsletter, we have received feasibility funding from the Community Housing Fund to do some more work on the proposed development at High St, Hebden Bridge, to see if we can satisfy the planning concerns raised in 2019. Our thinking now is, if we are able to progress a development on this site, we will probably do it in partnership with another not-for-profit organisation engaged in social housing provision.

## **Todmorden town centre development**

Calderdale's Cabinet approved a paper in March setting out exciting proposals for the Bramsche Square/Rose Street area of central Todmorden. (You'll find it here: [https://www.calderdale.gov.uk/nweb/COUNCIL.minutes\\_pkg.view\\_doc?p\\_Type=AR&p\\_ID=72733](https://www.calderdale.gov.uk/nweb/COUNCIL.minutes_pkg.view_doc?p_Type=AR&p_ID=72733)). The council has identified the CLT as a potential partner for the proposed residential part of the overall development, and we're naturally keen to talk further to the council about how this would work. The Rose Street site (where the old health centre was) is flat, and – given its central location - would we feel be very suitable for older people's accommodation. We'll share more details about this (potentially very exciting project) as soon as we can.

## **Getting in touch**

Our secretary Andrew Bibby can be reached on [info@caldervalleyclt.org.uk](mailto:info@caldervalleyclt.org.uk)