

Our share offer is live!

Our community share issue for the Fielden Acre project in Todmorden is up and running (and has already brought in £29,000, we notice). You can invest anything from £250 to £20,000 via the Ethex ethical investment platform. Go to www.ethex.org.uk/caldervalleyclt.

Our share launch

A big thank you if you were one of the 68 people with us for the share issue launch last Saturday. We appreciated very much that so many people were prepared to give up their weekend time to be with us. We hope, if you were there, that you found it useful.

New summary leaflet available

We have a new 4 page leaflet about the share issue just out. You can find it on www.caldervalleyclt.org.uk/docs/FAleaflet.pdf. Or ask us (via info@caldervalleyclt.org.uk) for a hard copy version.

And yet more information

Our share offer document and business plan have now had the attentions of a graphic designer at one of the local print companies. We like what he's done. Both documents are available at the Ethex webpage or at www.caldervalleyclt.org.uk/fieldenacre/

Do you tweet?

If so, you can really help the share issue get off to a great start. Our handle is @cvclt1. We are using the hashtags #fieldenacre, #communityshares and #communityledhousing.

Would rather not invest online?

We can send you a paper Application Form, at the back of the share offer document. Let us know (info@caldervalleyclt.org.uk)

Committed to invest?

22 people told us before the launch that they were going to invest, which meant that we had £42,000 already committed when we launched. Thank you if you were one of these.

Not able to invest?

Not a problem. Remember that you can become a member of the CLT for a single £1 share. If you're not already a member, we'd love to have you signed up. Our application form is on <https://caldervalleyclt.org.uk/get-involved/>

More about Ethex

We have chosen to ask the ethical investment platform Ethex to handle the logistics of our community share issue, something they are doing for a growing number of community share issues like ours. The Ethex story (how, after much planning, a sort-of ethical 'stock exchange' was established) is an interesting one, and you can read about it on the Ethex site. Jamie Hartzell who was the inspiration behind the idea came to the Calder Valley in 2018 to speak at one of our 'Housing – It's an Issue' public meetings, so you may remember him from then.

And more about community shares

Community share issues like ours have helped fund cooperative village shops and village pubs, community-owned wind turbines and renewable energy projects, organic farming ventures and of course other community-led housing initiatives.

Because community share investments are not protected in the way that, for example, bank deposits and building society savings are protected, Ethex is quite rightly concerned that investors know what they are doing. This is why

you will be asked when you invest on Ethex to answer questions to demonstrate your understanding of the share issue. Please accept this necessary procedural safeguard.

It's very important for the future development of the community share movement that community shares are only issued for robust initiatives. That was why we wanted to ensure that the Fielden Acre business plan was independently examined and approved for the quality Community Shares Standard Mark.

Banners are up

Our trustee Maggie Smallwood and her partner Shaun were busy on Friday evening, putting up banners at the Todmorden roundabout and at the Fielden Hall itself. We think they look pretty good.



Some thank yous

We are enormously grateful to the actor Kevin Doyle (Downton Abbey, Happy Valley etc) for endorsing our share issue, and for making videos for our website. His commitment to the upper Calder valley (where he lives) shines through.

We also need to thank Steve, Lucy and Peg from Leeds Community Homes, who have been helping us with the share issue marketing (they also ensured that the technical side of the launch went smoothly). We were able to attract some grant funding to be able to pay for their time and expertise. Leeds Community Homes ran a successful community share launch a few years ago, so we are hoping to emulate their success.