

Sixpenny Handley Community Land Trust 'CLT' Update

and

Notification of a Public Meeting to be held at 7pm on Tuesday 27th January 2015 in the Village Hall to ensure we have sufficient community support for the Affordable Housing Project

Further to our update in the August edition of the Downsman, we would like to bring you all up-to-date and share with you the progress of the affordable homes for rent project.

Formation of the CLT

After meetings and review it was decided the best vehicle for the Sixpenny Handley CLT would be a 'Community Benefit Society'. This is the body that will run the CLT and hold assets for projects. The following volunteers came forward to form the Core Group:

Founding Board: Simon Parker (Chair), Jenny Chapman (Secretary), James Reed (Treasurer), Matt Gibbons

Additional Board Members: Donald Penrose, Ros Adams, David Adams, Steve Barrett.

Monthly Steering Group: Simon Parker, Jenny Chapman, James Reed, Matt Gibbons, Donald Penrose, Steve Barrett, Colin Taylor, Ian Mereweather, Tim Reynolds, David Salmons, Vic and Linda Howard, David Lockyear.

Official paperwork is still to be put in place as we are waiting to have a meeting with Powerstock CLT before we commit to ensure we have answered all our queries and concerns.

Once the formal paperwork is in place it will be possible for others to buy shares in the CLT and become members of the Community Benefit Society for £1.00 per share – this membership and involvement would be available to everyone in our community.

Visit to Powerstock CLT

On 19th November members of the Sixpenny CLT will be visiting Powerstock CLT, who are somewhat further into the CLT experience than us, for a learning and Q&A session. We hope this visit will answer any open questions we have and help us plan our way forward more effectively.

Affordable Housing Project

As we explained in the August Downsman, the first project for the CLT is the provision of affordable housing within Sixpenny Handley for local people. These houses, if built, would be available to local people who are on the Council Housing List and meet the criteria for affordable homes. Furthermore, the CLT are able to define the criteria for 'local people'. To this end also, the CLT will be seeking expressions of interest from local people in advance of any development.

The CLT have secured a grant of £5,000.00 from East Dorset Council to cover the costs associated with any purchase of Exception Site land for the homes.

The CLT has thoroughly reviewed all possible Exception Sites and had discussions with various landowners. This review has concluded that there is just one possible site. This is the land owned by East Dorset District Council in Common Road that surrounds the current residential and school car parks.

Through our CLT meetings, and through expressions of interest, we will undertake a review of the Housing Needs Survey to ascertain the type and tenure of the affordable homes required.

If you would like to support this project, then please attend the meeting on Wednesday 28th January 2015, to ask any questions you may have and to express your view.

At this meeting we shall set out in detail the proposal so far with the land in Common Road and we will undertake a poll as to how the wider community wishes this project to move forward or otherwise.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible there.

This is a community led project.

Thank you.

Sixpenny Handley CLT