

Stow Community Land Trust

News

Spring 2026



STOW ON THE WOLD
COMMUNITY LAND TRUST
BUILDING TRULY
AFFORDABLE HOUSING

STOW COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

Stow CLT is a charitable organisation – set up and run by volunteers – with the aim of providing truly affordable housing for local people. Stow CLT is a member of the Community Land Trust Network. Anyone who shares our objectives can join for a membership fee of £1.

New Chairman and Deputy Chairman for Stow CLT

At the Public Board Meeting on 27 January 2026, the following changes were made, all to take effect from 1 April this year:

Chairman: **Bob Fisher**

Bob has lived in Mangersbury since 2003; he actively participates in community life, having served as Chairman of Mangersbury Parish Council for 8 years, as a Cotswold Warden for 13 years, and as a board member of Music at Stow. He has also been involved with Stow CLT since 2018.



A former Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, Bob has extensive experience in commercial property acquisition, development and management. In retirement he has worked as a non-executive director for housing associations in London and Stratford-upon-Avon.

Deputy Chairman: **Roger White**

Roger has lived in Stow since 2019 and has been involved with the Stow Civic Society, Stow Motor Club and the CLT.

Roger's professional career was in retail banking overseas and, following early retirement, he and his wife Diana ran a business support company in the US Virgin Islands.



Roger believes it is essential to find ways to provide truly affordable homes for local people in Stow to maintain the fabric and vitality of the town.

Both Bob and Roger were co-opted onto the Board last year and have strengthened it immensely.

In addition, **Ben Eddolls** was obliged to stand down having been on the Board for the last 9 years; in the light of his experience and knowledge, it was agreed that he be re-elected.

Chairman

Bob Fisher

Deputy Chairman

Roger White

Secretary and Treasurer

David Germaney

Board Members

Simon Clarke

Ben Eddolls

Dilys Neill

Liam Ratcliffe

Nigel Surman

Consultant Architect

Tim Carter

Technical Adviser

Steve Watson

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Site Acquisition

Progress is being made, albeit slowly, with the Oddington Road site.

At the time of going to press, the development of 37 units on the Oddington Road by Bayhill/Platform Housing has not yet commenced; we understand that this is being held up pending agreement on highway design.



Diggers at the Oddington Road site

The CLT had hoped to develop its site with Platform as the preferred Registered Provider as our development could dovetail in with theirs; economies of scale could mean reduced construction costs. Unfortunately, Platform were unwilling to take on a long-term lease (circa 125 years) with the CLT owning the freehold. The CLT is adamant that we own the freehold to avoid tenants acquiring the right to buy. Steve Watson of Middlemarch has introduced us to another Housing Association which is willing to take on the role of Registered Provider, subject to them getting Central Government Grant Funding and it fitting in with their other scheduled developments. Draft Heads of Terms have been prepared, so it is all looking positive.

As matters progress, we will need to raise substantial funds to cover legal costs for what will be a complicated transaction.



Dangerous bend on the Oddington Road

Co-housing – a different way forward?

Just outside Cambridge a radical new form of development has been created: in theory, there is a common outside space, you know your neighbours, your children are safe and there are shared communal tasks.

The primary design features include merging the outside garden space, so that it is communal and car-free, and building a common house where people can eat, meet and socialise. In theory it sounds idyllic and, provided everyone 'plays by the rules', it should make for a strong neighbourly community.

The idea is reminiscent of Eric Lyons' 1960s vision, realised in his Span estates like Fieldend in Twickenham (fieldend.com), and has worked well in Denmark where there is a strong sense of community responsibility. Planners in this country need to be reawakened to the concept, and Homes England seems to be open to the idea. The Cohousing Network, the Community Land Trust Network (of which Stow CLT is a member), and the Confederation of Co-operative Housing are drawing up plans to forge a Community-led Housing Strategy. This could be a valuable way forward for any new housing in our town.

