



Stow Community Land Trust

News

Winter 2023



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.

Stow CLT joins forces with Cotswold District Council to improve housing provision for local people

Stow CLT has devised a questionnaire to gather information from local people, with the objective of supporting Cotswold District Council's (CDC) Press and TV campaign to improve the provision of housing for lower income key workers and the rural skills sector. The questionnaire has been widely distributed to: local nursing homes, doctors' surgeries, charity organisations, schools and supermarkets.

One respondent has already been interviewed for the CDC newsletter, and we expect more in the near future.

If you are a local person who is finding it difficult to access suitable housing in the area, please consider joining the campaign by filling in and returning a questionnaire, which you will find on our website: <https://www.stowclt.org.uk/documentation>.

Stow on the Wold and The Swells Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Steering Plan Group has prepared its final version of the new Neighbourhood Plan, and this was considered at the Stow Town Council meeting on 15 December 2022. During an *in camera* session of the meeting, we understand that it was approved, subject to minor corrections. At the Stow Town Council Meeting on 26 January, the Council announced that it will be writing to everyone in the GL54 1 postcode on 6 February to let them know that the 'final' version of the Neighbourhood Plan will be available for consultation. There will be exhibitions at the Social Club and St Edwards Hall, the details of which will be available in the documentation.

Stow CLT is not yet privy to the contents of the Plan, but it is likely to have an important effect on Stow's future; we would urge all residents to keep a look out for the letter and to submit their views during the period of public consultation.

Stow CLT

Chairman

Ben Eddolls

Deputy Chairman

Moyra McGhie

Secretary and Treasurer

David Germaney

Board Members

John Holmes

Nigel Surman

Liam Ratcliffe

Helen Middleton-Price

Co-opted Board Members

Dilys Neill

Paul Girvan

Consultant Architect

Tim Carter

Technical Adviser

Steve Watson

Stow CLT website:
www.stowclt.org.uk

Co-opting developers to provide *truly* affordable housing

Stow Community Land Trust (Stow CLT) is a charity focused on providing truly affordable housing. Stow, by virtue of its location and history, attracts many visitors and people wishing to live in the town as residents and weekenders, which is reflected in increased rents and property values. This, in turn, has priced many lower income individuals out of the local housing market. As a result, locals are forced to seek affordable housing elsewhere and the hospitality, retail and care sectors have experienced significant problems attracting employees. Unfortunately, these are the very sectors upon which the economic well-being of Stow largely depends. In addition, because lower income employees in these sectors must travel from outside the local area, this lack of affordable housing also exacerbates traffic and emissions. Stow CLT seeks to encourage, own and facilitate development of affordable housing. In doing so, it advocates for policies supportive of this goal at the local, county, and national level. Stow CLT encourages developers to contribute to the solution by incorporating *truly* affordable housing in their development. This can be achieved directly by including such housing in their plans or contributing funds and/or land to Stow CLT. In return, we would, in principle, support an application that enables us to

provide truly affordable housing. This should be viewed as a long-term investment that will help to create a vibrant and diverse economy and community that will benefit all, and which ultimately guarantees the continued existence of the broad range of services that are available in this wonderful old market town.

As the volunteer Board of the Stow CLT, we welcome and encourage input from the community and developers interested in the wellbeing and future of Stow.

Paul Girvan

Community Land Trust Network Inclusivity workshop

The CLT Network AGM took place on 26 November 2022 and was followed by useful workshop sessions, including one on *Inclusivity and CLTs*, which we attended. In general, the people who get involved in setting up and running CLTs tend to be older and better-off; in other words, not the target groups for CLT housing, which are severely under-represented. Suggestions for improving the 'reach' of Stow CLT included improving its profile at local events – including fairs, shows and other celebrations. We were further encouraged to get together with local businesses and shops, schools, libraries, warm spaces and foodbanks to engage the local population, especially young people. Stow CLT is now actively

incorporating some of the guidance from this session into its plans.

Stow CLT Meetings 2023

The next Formal Board Meeting will be held at 7pm on Thursday 9 March at Stow Youth Centre (Town Council Building) Fosse Way, Stow-on-the-Wold GL54 1DW. All members and the public are welcome.

New Board Members

We are pleased to announce that Dilys Neill (left) and Paul Girvan (right) have agreed to be co-opted as Stow CLT Board Members.



Happy news!

We are delighted to announce that our Consultant Architect Tim Carter's wife Ellie has given birth to a son, Freddie on 3 November 2022, a brother for Evie.

