



Hook Norton Community Land Trust

Hook Norton Community Land Trust has been formally established as the legal body that will take the community housing project forward to completion. We are delighted that several members of the community with a broad range of experience and interests were excited to become new board members. We are also pleased to welcome to the board, Justin Bere Architects and Fiona Brown from the Community Housing Hub and the project will be fortunate to benefit from their different areas of specialist expertise and support.

We are lucky to have such a strong and vibrant community with so many local people who are passionate about their environment and care enough to give their time.

We submitted a pre planning application to Cherwell District Planning Department based on concept designs drawn up by Charlie Luxton Design with input from members of the community and await the outcome and planning advice.

Now that the Feasibility Study part of the process is complete we tendered for the Architect or Design practice that will work with the community to develop the project to a full planning application in the new year. The tendering process was very competitive and the Hook Norton Community Land Trust board selected Charlie Luxton Design as the team to collaborate with the community to determine the layout of the site and the design of the homes.

By the time you read this month's newsletter we will have held our next community consultation which is planned to be interactive with scale models of buildings and trees that can be moved around a large ground plan of the site. It will be fun to get our hands on the house models and try things out to shape the design.

We are also planning a bus trip for the community members interested in living in the homes to have a look at other community led housing projects in Cambridge and Bristol. It will be great to

experience what positive sustainable communities feel like to live in and hopefully be a good day out.

We have secured grant funding for this part of the project and plan to launch a community share offer in partnership with the Low Carbon Hub next Spring. Another piece of good news is that we heard recently that we have been granted Secretary of State approval for the land transfer for the project from Cherwell District Council to the community land trust (subject to meeting conditions)

Following an intense period of consultation in November and December with the community and Charlie Luxton Design we will exhibit the results to the whole Hook Norton Community in the new year before the full planning application and look forward to your thoughts and comments.

Please contact me if you are interested in living in one of the homes or if you would like more information.

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