



LEISTON COMMUNITY LAND TRUST ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

1. CHAIR'S REPORT

This Report covers the period from our incorporation on 5th October 2018 as a Community Benefit Society until the end of our first accounting period at 31st March 2019. The Notes of our initial General Meeting on 11th December 2018 show that the members of the original Steering Group were elected as founding Trustees and we were fortunate to have Simon Merrett added to our number at that point. At the subsequent Trustee Board meeting I was honoured to be elected as Chair, and I would like to record my personal thanks to all the Trustees who as volunteers attended more meetings and contributed more time than any Chair has the right to expect. The value of Trustees with specific, relevant skills to a project like this was shown early in 2019 during our Business Plan preparation when Simon Merrett captured our vision in his inspiring drawings and I believe these have encouraged further support from even more individuals and organisations.

Many of you will be aware that the former Westbrook Family land in the town centre was almost lost to the project in December last year, when the then Suffolk Coastal District Council (now East Suffolk Council) stepped in and secured the land for the town. We have since set up a joint Leiston Community Land Trust/East Suffolk Council Project Team and meet bi-monthly. This has provided considerable support and advice for which the Trustees would like to express their thanks. The Community Land Trust is also represented on "Leiston Together" where the town centre regeneration forms the single largest element of the development plan.

I would also extend the thanks of the whole Board to the residents and supporters of Leiston who immediately committed to further supporting the ambitious proposals for the regeneration of Leiston Town Centre outlined in the Neighbourhood Plan by signing up as Members or Associates of the CLT. This is critical evidence when persuading potential funders to allocate scarce resources to Leiston rather than elsewhere, and we would encourage current Members to report our progress to your friends and family to continue to expand our membership.

Our exciting progress since March 2019 and our proposals for 2020 are not the subject of this Report, but will be explained by Simon Merrett and Revd Jim Florance on conclusion of the formal aspects of the AGM when you will be able to ask questions.

2. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Until the Leiston Community Land Trust (CLT) was formally incorporated as a Community Benefit Society on 5th October 2018 we were not able to recruit members. However by 31st March 2019 119 Members and 13 Associate Members had signed up. Membership is via a one off payment of £1 for a share, entitling the Member to stand for election as a Trustee and vote at General Meetings. Associate Members are recruited via donation, but are not shareholders and are not able to vote, although their views and input are equally welcome.

Members, Associates and the general public are also welcome to drop in to our information centre at No22 Sizewell Road (opposite the Co-op) on Tuesday mornings between 9am and 11.30am.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

The accounts for the period are attached and show modest movement with income primarily from grants from Leiston Business Association, the EDF/Galopper fund and the national Community Land Trust Network. These have been examined by Mr John Rayner and confirmed as an accurate representation for the period.

Community Benefit Societies are regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, who require formal audit to be undertaken unless voted otherwise by Members. Until our financial activity reaches a more significant level, it is recommended that examination of the accounts be approved and a Resolution to this effect is included.

4. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

In accordance with the rules of the Society, Trustees are elected for a term of 3 years with one third standing down each year. With 7 Trustees elected 2 are required to stand down at this AGM, being Mr Russ Rainger and Mr Bing Boast. Both have indicated their willingness to stand again. Mr Tony Cooper was later co-opted onto the Board and now stands for formal election as a Trustee. A further candidate is Mr Phil Edwards who brings considerable and much needed business experience. Sadly, Mr Barry Norman has decided to stand down due to other commitments. His input will be missed and the Board are grateful for all his work on behalf of the Society.

17 Nov 19