

Leiston Community Land Trust Secretary's Report 2023

It's a just over a year now since Church Square was formally completed and handed back to the Church to manage. It has been well used and created interest. With the recent East Suffolk work on the Leiston Masterplan, the Board took the decision to wait for the output of the proposals to determine how the CLT will be engaged in the plan, hence the CLT has not been active with respect to new membership recruitment. Nevertheless, we are delighted to report that our membership currently stands at 307 (263 members and 44 associate members). This high number is quite unique in terms of Community Land Trusts, but it does show how much Leiston people care about their town and how it will be transformed in the future. It also conveys a very positive message when we are applying for funding grants and awards.

We did again have a stand for the Suffolk Day event at the Long Shop Museum, where there was a lot of interest in the work of the CLT from Members and non-Members.

As a reminder, Membership is by a one-off payment of £1 for a share, entitling the Member to vote at General Meetings and to be considered to stand for election as a Trustee if desired. Associate Members are recruited by a donation but are not shareholders, therefore not entitled to vote although their views and input are equally welcome.

Over the Winter, the rising cost of heating made it uneconomic to open the office for only a few hours a week. While the CLT engagement with the Masterplan is awaited, added to our desire to manage the available budget, the Board took the decision not to re-open for the moment. On the topic of our office in Sizewell Road it worth mentioning that due to rain ingress the roof required some repairs, but this was completed by the property owner, East Suffolk Council.

Denise Rainger
Administrator
Leiston Community Land Trust
July 2023