

The Emsworth Community Land Trust – your questions answered

Q: What are Community Land Trusts (CLTs)?

A: *Community Land Trusts are a form of community-led housing, set up and run by ordinary people to develop and manage homes as well as other assets. CLTs act as long-term stewards of housing, ensuring that it remains genuinely affordable.*

Q: Is Emsworth Community Land Trust (ECLT) new?

A: *Yes, it is. Developed in just 6 months, it is now a Community Benefit Society. Directors of the Board are local volunteers with a range of relevant skills.*

Q: What are the aims of the Community Land Trust?

A: *To provide affordable housing and other community facilities for people with a strong local connection to the Ward of Emsworth.*

Q: So is it all about the Emsworth Victoria Cottage Hospital site?

A: *That site was a key reason for the ECLT to be set up. If the site were declared surplus to NHS requirements it could be sold to a private developer. This prospect has caused understandable public concern. Now Emsworth Medical Practice has agreed to reconsider the site for a new surgery.*

Q: What if this doesn't happen?

A: *ECLT will work with a partner organisation who will purchase the site and together we will provide affordable housing and community facilities.*

Q: What is affordable housing?

A: *Technically it means homes that are available, usually to rent, at up to 80% of the local market rent for a similar property.*

Q: How can ECLT afford to build homes?

A: *There are several options. For example, ECLT would work with a partner, often a Housing Association. ECLT would own the freehold of the homes built preventing them from being sold under 'Right to Buy' and enabling them to stay within the ECLT in perpetuity.*

Q: Are there other Community Land Trusts in the area?

A: *More than 200 Community Land Trusts are in operation with active ones locally in Wickham and Petersfield. Westbourne is just setting one up and ECLT hopes to collaborate closely with them.*

Q: How is ECLT different from Emsworth United?

A: *Emsworth United is a campaign group established in response to the 'for sale' signs raised on the Cottage Hospital site. It includes representatives of many of the larger community groups in Emsworth- It hosted the public meeting in August at which ECLT was formally launched and where NHS, Havant Borough Council and other speakers were left in no doubt as to the strength of public feeling about what was wanted on that site. Since then a small steering group has been established to*

work with the NHS, Emsworth Medical Practice and others to help find the best solution for Emsworth's future primary healthcare.

Q: How many people have become members?

A: *There are more than 300 and the number is rising! If you paid your £1 and have not yet received your share certificate please email us on info@emsworthclt.org.uk*

Q: Can I join as a member of the Emsworth Community Land Trust?

A: *Yes please! Either visit www.emsworthclt.org.uk and look under membership, or go to the Community Centre and ask for a membership form.*

Q: Are you looking for more volunteers?

A: *Yes, always. It is important to strengthen our mix of skills. Please email us on info@emsworthclt.org.uk*

More FAQs on the website: www.emsworthclt.org.uk

If you have an unanswered question please contact us on info@emsworthclt.org.uk

For examples of success stories across the UK, visit www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk