Brampford Speke, Upton Pyne & Cowley
Community Land Trust

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The Chairman
Newton St Cyres Parish Council
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Dear Chairman

Could your Parish make use of a Community Land Trust (CLT)?

I am writing to ask whether your Parish, as one of our 'neighbours', might possibly see some benefit from having an active Community Land Trust to pursue projects in your area.

You may be aware that, with the support of both our Parish Councils, our CLT was established in 2012, with the aim of providing some new affordable housing for local people. We have so far been successful in one parish, with the development of 7 rented homes in Lake's Down, Upton Pyne. The homes are prioritised for locally-connected people, through a well-respected 's106' Planning Agreement; the definition of 'locally-connected' starts with our two parishes, and then extends to contiguous ones. The homes are let at sub-market rents, and are managed by a housing association (Hastoe).

CLTs are able to do other things than deliver affordable housing. For example, we also own & manage a small area of community land – available to all - next to the affordable housing.

It has occurred to us that our neighbouring parishes might be able to make use of a CLT, and that we could facilitate this by changing our remit to cover projects in these parishes. We would also change our governance arrangements, to make membership of the CLT a level playing field between all the parishes concerned.

We are making this approach not because we have self-aggrandising ambitions to expand but because we think that our experience and our governance infrastructure could help, could short-cut, the delivery of locally-supported projects for which a CLT is a suitable vehicle. We also think that it would strengthen our CLT for there to be a larger population from which to draw its members & directors.

If you think that your parish might possibly be interested, we would be happy to meet you to talk about – and to answer questions about - what a CLT could offer, either by attending a Parish Council meeting or by having an informal meeting with some councillors if you would prefer that as a first step.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours

Stewart Wass
Chair, BSUPC CLT
PS Could you please reply to both me & Andrew Wiles