



What is a Community Land Trust?

A Community Land Trust (CLT) is a community-based not for profit organisation that exists to own and operate land for the benefit of the local community. Run by volunteers, they can deliver housing and other community facilities at permanently affordable levels for local people.

The CLT acts as legal owner and long term steward of land , housing and other community assets, ensuring these stay affordable and are used for the benefit of the community, now and permanently into the future. CLTs also allow communities to deliver their own services such as shops, or pubs, community centres, community enterprises or work spaces, growing areas, or other facilities, usually through long leases.

CLTs are membership organisations that are owned by their members and run in a democratic way. They are usually set up by local people who live and work in a defined area, such as a village, town or suburb, and those people have the opportunity to become members. The members control the CLT, usually through a board being elected from the membership. The community is in control and integrally involved throughout the process in key decisions like what is provided, where, and for who.

What are the benefits of a CLT?

- CLTs are locally driven, controlled and democratically accountable.
- CLTs can meet local housing need even in areas with very high house prices.
- CLTs provide housing, but also land and important amenities that are permanently affordable, benefiting many generations of residents.
- CLTs genuinely empower local communities, where communities are part of the vision and solution for their local area.
- CLTs help to create environmentally and socially sustainable communities

A worldwide movement

The community land trust movement is a young and rapidly growing movement in England and Wales, where there are now over 500 CLT groups, and the use of CLTs has started to spread across the whole country. There are currently 1,100 homes completed with 7,100 more in the pipeline. From Cornwall to Northumberland , the successful projects are showing the way for more and more communities to set up their own CLTs.

Source: The Community Land Trust Network www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk