

## **Cities, Communities and Homes: Is the Urban Future Livable?**

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

Community Land Trusts: a solution to local housing needs

- **Format:**

Written paper (3,000 words) and Verbal presentation

- **Author(s) Name:**

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- **University or Company Affiliation:**

The University of Huddersfield

- **Abstract (300 words):**

Naomi Klein suggests in her book "This Changes Everything" that power to change the world into a better place for all rests in the capable hands of our local communities. Forming a Community Land Trust (CLT) is one simple vehicle to enable the home-growth revolution to happen.

An awareness of holistic issues surrounding the global crisis and the ethical balance of 'People, Planet and Profit' is necessary to understand the importance of community driven buildings, and specifically of homes. This paper focuses on the need to construct to the highest standards possible and to produce integrated outcomes to secure optimum sustainability and demonstrates how local Community Land Trusts (CLTs) can form an important part of the facilitation process.

In the UK, the current government's attitude to green issues have been characterized in the recent COP21 talks as 'taking a step backwards'. There are four main areas of government influence that affect house building:

1. Removal/reduction of renewable energy tariff benefits
2. Permitting house builders to opt out of the 2008 parliamentary act requiring them to build zero carbon homes by 2016.
3. Setting a target of 260,000 new homes to be built each year putting tremendous pressure on local councils to secure land to enable this to happen.
4. Extending the 'Right to Buy' option to social housing.

Community Land Trusts are a growing body of locally based, community run organisations founded to procure the building of new social 'Homes' with a fundamental to gain full community support for every project undertaken, working with local councils. This paper describes action research into this form of social housing: a type that remains in the trust of the local community, and how this can move above and beyond the National Government's limited ambitions to act as a beacon for others to emulate.

• **Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

Hilary Chadwick is a senior lecturer in architecture at the University of Huddersfield teaching both at masters and undergraduate levels. Currently Hilary is involved with studio teaching on the design modules and is responsible introducing first year undergraduate students to sustainable & holistic principles via a small lecture series punctuating their academic year.

Hilary is also a practicing architect and works half-time from home in the Calder Valley area of West Yorkshire and is currently preparing documentation for a research piece using art as format to express the contents.

Hilary was instrumental in the set-up of the local Calder Valley Community Land Trust (CVCLT) in 2014, starting out as the treasurer. The CVCLT has been successful in having land transferred into its ownership from the local council for free to enable the building of local housing. One site in Walsden has been earmarked for housing for the elderly and a larger piece of very steep land in Hebden Bridge is currently being discussed in a series of community consultations to ascertain what might be possible.