



How are the shop and Christow Community Land Trust connected?

Legal Structure

A business such as our shop needs to have a formal, legal structure so it can be registered with HMRC, open a bank account etc.

Most community shops are either set up as Co-operatives or Community Benefit Societies (CBS). These are not-for-profit organizations in the sense that no shareholders, directors or others make any money from them. Instead, any trading surplus is used for the benefit of the community, for example, grants to local groups, schools and charities.

Christow is fortunate in that at the time the shop was being planned we already had an established Community Benefit Society: the Christow Community Land Trust (CCLT for short). Although the CCLT was originally formed to support the building of Stafford Close, its constitution allows it to undertake other not-for-profit activities such as running a business. The shop project group and the CCLT jointly agreed that the shop would become a part of the CCLT for legal and governance purposes, saving a lot of time and effort so we could fast-track our opening and 'piggyback' on an existing structure.

About the CCLT

The CCLT was formed in 2012 as a Community Benefit Society (CBS) and is registered with the Financial Conduct Authority, Register number 31683R. The registered address is Hillcrest Cottage, Butts Lane, Christow, Devon, EX6 7NN. A CBS is managed by the community for the benefit of the community, not just its members. All the directors are volunteers drawn from the community and elected by the CCLT members. You can see who the CCLT directors are by visiting teignvalley.org/cclt/.

The CCLT has set the terms of reference for, and appointed, the Shop Management Committee which operates under the rules and standing orders of the CCLT. For example, the Shop Management Committee sends monthly trading accounts to the CCLT Board of Directors so they can check that there are no causes for concern and that the shop is being properly managed. In this way the CCLT acts as a 'safety net' to protect the interests of the community who have invested time and money in getting the shop up and running.

You can find out more about the CCLT and download the Rules at teignvalley.org/cclt/.

Get involved!

If you are interested in either joining the Shop Management Committee or becoming a Director of the CCLT, please email ChristowCLT@gmail.com or talk to the chair of the Shop Management Committee (Jude Jones).

Corony Edwards
Chair, CCLT
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