



Cricklade Development Foundation Limited

A Community Land Trust | *Enhancing our Community*

Email: contact@crickladefoundation.org.uk

AGM

Chair's Report 2021

In 2018, Cricklade Development Foundation was formed and became a legal organisation called a Community Benefit Society. Our not-for-profit group aim to preserve our High Street and its services by protecting ground floor commercial premises e.g., we have applied, and succeeded in getting, the Police Station designated as an Asset of Community Value (which means we will get 6 months' notice of any planned sale) and also, we have objected to planning applications where conversion to full residential was being sought at other premises, like the Lloyds Bank building, FA92 and Madam Blunt.

We have support from Cricklade Town Council, Wiltshire Council, and the national Community Land Trust organisation, as another aim is to try to convert first floor accommodation in any project we do, to be used as starter rental homes for local people.

The first identified project back in 2018 was the Police Station, as it was publicised that the building was going to be sold by the Police Authority. There have been delays due to the Police having problems finding suitable alternative space and we have been advised this will be looked at again at a future date. This is still our favoured first project as we believe this building could be the heart of the Town and a big benefit to the community.

Over 2018/9 much has been done such as legal work, monitoring planning applications, obtaining grants for professional fees and communication materials - for example, the new website which was officially launched in January 2020. We want to accelerate communication and encourage more support, as once we can move on a project this support, including help identifying more financial resources, will be very important to achieve the goal of preserving the services in our Town for the long term.

2020 has brought all of us some very difficult times with the Covid-19 pandemic and our local High Street has played a big part in helping the community by extending their services. For the Society, Covid-19 has had an impact by delaying our public launch and necessitated our AGM not being the public event planned. We are still active and continue to monitor changes to relevant properties which we inform by use of Facebook and our Website.

The survival of our High Street is even more in jeopardy now and our Society remains totally committed to pick up efforts as soon as possible once we get through the current serious situation.

Ruth Szybiak
Chair

January 2021
