



See it and Believe it: Grant feedback

Your organisation name: Cherwell Community Land Trust (CCLT)

Who did you visit using the See it and Believe it grant? Cornwall Community Land Trust and Totnes Transition Towns Transition Homes

What were your objectives for the visit?

We wanted to visit a community land trust that was well established. Cornwall had similarities to Cherwell in that it is an Umbrella CLT with a strong partner (in CRHA rather than the District Council as it is here. Much of the initial development for CCLT is through self build so the visit to the St Minver self build project was of particular interest.

Cherwell CLT has a particular interest in utilising green building methods and the visit to Totnes really inspired what was possible through natural building.

What did you learn from your hosts?

So much! At Cornwall there was a lot of learning about how to establish an organisation, key skills (internally and in partnership and structures. The pros and cons of setting up local CLTs under an umbrella was useful. Some of the information on finance and some really nitty gritty practical stuff such as partnership agreements.

The St Minver visit was very helpful to look at how the self build was set up and a key lesson was keep it simple! It was great to meet people who had taken part in the project

What will be the next steps for your project? How did what you learnt from your hosts inform or change your plans?

The main impact of the visit was inspirational but some things that have changed our thinking include:

- A greater commitment to encourage the formation of local CLTs as a way of empowering communities to really become involved
- A renewed commitment to ensuring we make properties as energy efficient as possible and so reduce running costs
- Keep projects simple and aim to make improvements with each project carried out
- From Totnes we will seek to absorb some of their ideas around natural building methods and community resources as part of schemes

Did you find the application process easy? Yes –very helpful

Did you receive enough advice and support when preparing your application and when conducting your visit?

Yes

How could your experience have been improved?

We might have tried to visit another project but time was short!

Any additional comments

Thanks so much for this grant –the visit really was inspirational and invaluable in motivating members and building links and contacts. We are pulling together a full presentation detailing the visit and lessons learned which we will share with you.