

September  
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# News from the National CLT Network



## CLT of the Month – Allendale Community Housing

On Friday 16 September 2011 Allen Garden, a community-led scheme by Allendale Community Housing, Northumberland, was officially opened by Conservative MP for Hexham, Guy Opperman.



Allen Garden was developed by **Allendale Community Housing**, a community-owned company run to CLT principles, in partnership with Durham-based housing association **Four Housing Group**, local developer Newman Developments and Northumberland County Council. It provides three high-quality, affordable homes for social rent and received funding from Four Housing Group and the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA).

David Stewart OBE is Chair of Allendale Community Housing. He said, “We think this is a great example of the Big Society in action, a community group identifying and meeting a local need with the help of housing professionals and local authority experts. The homes are built to extremely high environmental standards making them cheaper to live in, the work force has been mainly local craftsmen, and the tenants will all be local people - a win, win, win.”

## Meet the Board:

This month the National CLT Network sat with **Phil Rose, member of the National CLT Network Board and CLT Development Manager at Foundation East**, an 'umbrella CLT' and asked him a few questions about the CLT movement:

*How much has the CLT movement grown in the UK in the last few years and what do you expect for the future?*



It seems to have really taken off, with interest in lots of new areas that have not previously been exposed to CLTs. Clearly the political agenda has helped and the new community rights in the Localism legislation will create a surge of interest, even if the actual powers themselves may not need to be used that often. I am seeing a change in attitude among local authorities and the default answer to community led proposals with widespread support now seems to be becoming 'Yes'.

***If there was one thing that you could change to make it easier for CLTs what would it be?***

There's a great weight of expectation among politicians for CLTs to grow up quickly to respond to the Localism agenda. However, without a strong support infrastructure in place that's simply not going to happen. If I was a government minister I would pump a bit more money into seed-corn support initiatives like the CLT Network and make sure that the major lenders have an open door to CLTs and CLT purchasers. Oh, and make all CLT property exempt from enfranchisement. Sorry, I know you only asked for one change but there's a lot to do!

***How do you think the National CLT Network stand went down with delegates at the National Housing Federation Annual Conference last week?***

I was only at the conference for a few hours but I understand there were lots of enquiries. I think it's important that we were there, to be seen among the big boys in the Housing movement. The CLT sector is still very small and potentially easily forgotten by the key stakeholders in UK Housing so it is vital that we attend conferences like these to fly our flag.

## **Book now for CLT events:**

- **South West CLT Conference, 3 October, the Exchange, Bridgwater**
- **Introduction to CLTs, 19 October, BVSC, Birmingham**
- **CLT Practitioners' Seminar, 29-30 November, Stroud**

**For more information and to book visit the Network website: [www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk](http://www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk)**

## **FACT FILE: CLT Fund**

The CLT Fund is a £2m fund to support fledgling CLT projects, helping them to make developments become a reality by providing both funding and expert support. Funding is available for CLTs that create affordable housing through the co-operative ownership of land by the local community.

The fund is split into four tranches to support CLTs at each stage of development, from feasibility through to construction. For more information go to [www.cltfund.org.uk](http://www.cltfund.org.uk).

### **National CLT Network**