

Press Release

Bristol CLT wins recognition and gains insight this Autumn

Bristol Community Land Trust (BCLT) has won Best Collective or Group Self Build project at the 2015 Build It! Awards for Bristol's first Community Land Trust project. BCLT's first housing project at 325 Fishponds Road provides future residents with an opportunity to complete works to their own homes through a 'self-finish' model, allowing them to save up to £5,000 in costs.

Future residents of the homes have been meeting for several months working together to take decisions on the self finish programme, the customisation of their homes and the garden design whilst working with the contractor to make sure the transition between site hand over to the self finish group goes smoothly.

Jackson Moulding, vice chairman of the National Self Build Association and director of Ecomotive, who is managing the self finish group element of the project, said there's a "real desire" in Bristol for these types of builds.

"The demand is just really strong in this city at the moment. People want to start providing houses for themselves - something affordable and something they can be involved with from the start."

BCLT hopes to apply the self finish model at its next project at Shaldon Road, Lockleaze where it aims to develop a range of apartments for self finish and serviced plots for self build. A group of BCLT members from the steering group recently travelled to Vauban, a district in Freiburg, Germany considered to be an exemplary sustainable development. One of the unique aspects of Vauban is that future residents were encouraged to form collective building groups called 'Baugruppen' to design and build their own homes. One BCLT member who was on the trip said: "I feel that I learnt a huge amount and feel so inspired by the German vision of social responsibility and collective organisation for the good of the community".

The trip was enabled through the Urban CLT Project grant managed by the National CLT Network and funded by the Oak Foundation, which provides grants of up to £10,000 to potential or existing Community Land Trusts in urban areas to develop their projects.

Bristol Community Land Trust was launched in January 2011 and signed up over 150 members including young single people, young couples, families and older persons. For further information about Bristol Community Land Trust go to: www.bristolclt.org.uk

A Community Land Trust is a not-for-profit, community-based organisation that develops housing and other assets at affordable levels for long-term community benefit. A CLT can provide housing through shared equity or outright sale on the open market, for affordable rent, or a combination of the above. For more information see the National CLT Network: www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk

A list of all winners at the Build It! 2015 Awards can be found here: www.builditawards.co.uk/2015-winners/

<u>ENDS</u>

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Notes to Editor:

Build It magazine is Britain's longest running self build magazine, a guide to custom home building, DIY and renovation.

Bristol Community Land Trust is a not for profit community led organisation.