Custodian Trustee Request

Background

Thame Community Land Trust (TCLT) has been supported by Thame Town Council since its formal registration in February 2019. Such support has been a key factor in TCLT's success in achieving planning permission for 31 affordable homes (16 affordable rent, 15 shared ownership) at Windmill Road. The latter is about to start construction under the authority of TCLT's partner, Soha Housing. Soha Housing will be putting the Windmill Road scheme up for the award of **Best Affordable Housing Development** at the **'Inside Housing' ceremony** at the InterContinental O2 on 25th November.

As part of the planning permission, TCLT negotiated with SODC that allocation of houses is to be made (first and foremost, now and in the future) to Thame residents or those with a close family or working relationship with Thame. These terms are legally binding.

In a series of workshops held in February & March this year, TCLT resolved to continue its work in providing, or facilitating, affordable homes for Thame residents or those with a close family relationship with the town. The Trust has the resources to achieve the latter and is in the process of seeking new sites. It has taken steps to strengthen its board and adviser availability. It will also seek to expand its community involvement and membership

The Trustees believe that the current and potential development, as outlined above, has now reached the stage that the appointment of a custodian trustee would counter any potential and possible threat to the aims and ethos of the Trust that may result from its expansion. A full justification is contained in the attached paper prepared by Wrigleys (Solicitors).

Request

Thame Town Council considers accepting the role of Custodian Trustee for the Thame Community Land Trust.

The paper attached expands on the principle of a custodian trustee but formal acceptance would await the actual finalisation of the amended Rules themselves. TCLT is seeking TTC acceptance of such a role in principle and not a final commitment.

Bob Austin
Chair
Thame Community Land Trust