



## Invitation to tender - community engagement services

We are inviting tenders for community engagement services for our project on The Lawns.

Crystal Palace Community Land Trust (CPCLT) will be submitting a planning application in the late spring/early summer to develop a small sustainable and affordable housing project on land currently owned by Croydon Council at The Lawns, Upper Norwood.

Over the past three years we have reached out to and engaged our local community every step of the way. Now, at this critical point, we would like your help to step that engagement up and build local support for our planning application. We have an initial budget of £1,000, which can rise to £2,000.

Our preference is for someone located in the Crystal Palace area, though this is not essential.

## Background

Crystal Palace Community Land Trust (CLT) started in May 2019 in response to a competition run by Croydon Council for community led housing on a small site at The Lawns, SE19. We came out of Crystal Palace Transition Town, a community network which aims to help people transition to greener, more sustainable lifestyles.

We are set up for the wellbeing of the local community, and can only use our income and assets to that end. Anyone who lives or works in the area can **join for £1**, and they jointly own and control the CLT. We want to keep increasing the number of **members** so we are rooted in the local community.

Our members elect Directors to the **Board**, which oversees and runs the CLT. We currently have eight Directors - Chris Axon (Chair), Lola Barrett, Tom Chance (Secretary), Janet Cooke, Bernard Humphrey-Gaskin, Vishal Shah, Robert Shaw and Rory Underwood (Treasurer). We meet every two or three months.

The Board has set up a **Project Committee** to take forward our project on The Lawns. This is chaired by Rob Shaw, and includes some other Directors as well as other members of the CLT who want to be involved in the detailed work, our Project Manager and other professionals as needed. They meet every month, and sometimes more frequently.

Since August 2019 we've been working to get our first project going at The Lawns:

- Recruiting a Board of local people with the skills to oversee the CLT.
- Negotiating the terms for the land with Croydon Council.
- Appointing a professional team including a project manager, solicitors and architects.
- Setting up a Resident Design Group consisting of twelve local people who are representative of the local area in terms of age, income, race and ethnicity, and who are working with our architects on designing the homes.
- Leafleting and door knocking with residents on The Lawns, running stalls in the local area to share our emerging plans and recruit members, meeting with leaders of other community networks, holding public consultation events, and doing other community outreach including with local schools and churches.
- Running a logo design contest with year 6 pupils at a local primary school, which resulted in the logo at the top right of this page.
- Securing over £340,000 of grant funding from ward councillors, Community Led Homes London and the Greater London Authority.

Our engagement with the community has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and by lengthy delays on the negotiations with LB Croydon over the terms for the land. We last shared our plans with our members and the public at our AGM in November 2022, and the Resident Design Group last met for a design workshop in November 2020.

## **Services required**

The aim of this work is to build local support for our planning application. We would also like you to grow our membership, and to try and get some further engagement from residents living on The Lawns into the final resident design group meeting.

N.B. at this late stage there is limited scope for people to fundamentally alter the plans, including the design of the homes. We don't want to run a token or fake consultation exercise. We have provided extensive opportunities for meaningful involvement and control since we started in May 2019, as noted above. If people would like to get more involved and shape the project (and other future projects) we would welcome them joining as members, attending our meetings and speaking to Rob Shaw, chair of the The Lawns Project Committee.

We would be interested in your thoughts on how you might achieve this, but we envisage:

1. Meeting with key community figures and hosts of social networks (online and offline) to explain our story and how we have arrived at the designs and affordability model that will feature in our planning application.

2. Increasing our presence and reach on local social media groups to tell our story, invite feedback (noting the point about consultation above).
3. Contacting residents on The Lawns, door to door, to invite them to participate in the final Resident Design Group workshop which will focus on 'materiality' - the choice of materials and other aesthetic considerations.
4. Phoning the existing Resident Design Group members to invite them to attend this final workshop, if they still wish to be involved (given the long gap since the last workshop in November 2020).
5. Mobilising local supporters to submit supportive comments on the planning application when it goes live on the Croydon system.

This post is funded by a grant from the Greater London Authority. We have agreed an initial budget of £1,000, and the Board can increase this up to £2,000 if the work is going well and there is clear benefit to the extra expenditure.

You should provide your day rate as part of the application.

Proposals in the form of a CV and cover letter should be received by Tom Chance (Secretary) by 12:00 on 6th January. If you would like to discuss the role, please contact Tom on [contact@crystalpalaceclt.org](mailto:contact@crystalpalaceclt.org).