

OLNEY TOWN COUNCIL



Statement from the Mayor 2nd December 2020

Olney Town Council has become aware of two issues that are creating a great deal of inaccurate information on Social Media.

It has become clear from the number of contacts we have received from both young adults and their older family members that there is a gap in the provision of affordable housing for young adults either as individuals or couples.

As a Town Council we cannot build housing. But we can facilitate. My fellow Councillors have looked at the problem with great care. The Town Council concluded in the November Council meeting that we would investigate the option of enabling a Community Land Trust for Olney.

A Community Land Trust (CLT) is an independent entity that is made up of Community Members with a mission to build properties for rent to local people. The Council would have representation on the trust but not control it.

A property rented from a CLT will always remain in the ownership of the Trust (unlike MK Council or Housing Association properties which can be bought under Right to Buy legislation, so reducing the housing rental stock available) so a CLT would be the best way forward in the Councils view. Once we have a grant from the National CLT Network we will call on interested residents to help form the Trust for Olney.

A CLT will need land to build on. OTC is willing to survey its land holdings to establish if any would be deemed suitable for small scale housing builds. This is the best way for OTC to support the young adults of Olney into housing in Olney.

The second issue is the one of the Covid Marshalls Monies given to parish and Town Councils from Government via Milton Keynes Council. There has been an award to Olney Town Council, but those monies have not yet reached us. However, we are currently working to establish a group of trained staff and volunteers who can act as Covid Marshalls. The money when received can only be used in accordance with the conditions attached to it as outlined below: -

- Deliver an initiative in line with the Government [guidelines](#) and the attached grant agreement.
- Deliver an initiative that focuses on education and engagement to encourage compliance in high streets and local centres.
- Ensure that anyone fulfilling the role of COVID marshal is appropriately trained, including having completed the MKC Community Champion training (contact Claire.griffin@milton-keynes.gov.uk).
- Provide brief monthly updates on how the money has been used and spent allocated funding by 31 March 2021.