

**'ANDREW GEORGE TO HEAD UP SUCCESSFUL AFFORDABLE HOMES PROVIDER IN CORNWALL'**



An audience of business and community leaders were at the Eden Project on 2 July for the launch of a £250,000 share issue by Cornwall Community Land Trust (Cornwall CLT) and learned that the organisation's new leader would be former St Ives MP Andrew George. Cornwall CLT's Chairman Phil Randall announced the share launch – aimed at providing working capital to increase Cornwall CLT's output of affordable homes for local people – and at the same time welcomed Andrew to the company's team.

Speaking about his appointment Andrew said “securing decent and genuinely affordable homes for local families is the most pressing challenge for Cornwall and the Scillies. Although Cornwall is one of the fastest growing places in the UK - doubling its housing stock in forty years - the housing problems of locals have got significantly worse. What we need is for communities and charities like the Cornwall Community Land Trust to do more.”

"It's an honour to be asked to take on such an important role and with a charity with such a strong national reputation. I look forward to the challenge of maintaining the excellent work that Alan Fox, Helen Downing and the Board have already initiated since 2006."

At the event Phil Randall also praised Cornwall CLT's founding director Alan Fox for his hard work and dedication in establishing Cornwall CLT in 2006 and making it one of the most successful CLT's in England. He announced that Alan would be retiring at the end of July but would remain on Cornwall CLT's Board in a voluntary capacity as Company Secretary.

For further information visit [www.cornwallclt.org](http://www.cornwallclt.org), call 01872 243554 or email [info@cornwallclt.org](mailto:info@cornwallclt.org)

#### Notes

**Andrew George** will be known locally as the MP for the West Cornwall and Isles of Scilly constituency of St Ives from 1997 until May this year.

He is a noted campaigner on housing, especially for Affordable housing. He was the promoter of Parliamentary Bill - The Affordable Homes Bill - which resulted in a significant defeat of the then Government at Westminster last year. In it Mr George proposed the scrapping of the so called "Bedroom Tax" and the creation of a new Intermediate Housing Fund to promote the work of Community Land Trusts and Housing Associations. He also successfully led other housing campaigns in Parliament, including to scrap the 50% Council Tax discount for second homes introduced by the then Conservative Govt in early 1990s. Before he was elected Mr George worked for the Charity Cornwall Rural Community Council, where he specialised in affordable housing.

**Cornwall CLT**, based in Truro, is a not for profit Community Benefit Society which provides affordable housing for local people throughout Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. By either building homes direct, supporting local communities to form their own community land trust to build homes or by providing technical assistance and consultancy to housing associations and other partners, Cornwall CLT has helped to deliver 185 homes since its formation in 2006. Eight homes are currently under construction, with a further eight homes planned to start in late summer 2015.

**Affordable housing** is one of the key issues in many parts of Cornwall. The big discrepancy between local salaries and house prices puts buying a house out of reach for working people from teachers and firefighters, to nurses and owners of small businesses. Cornwall Community Land Trust (CCLT) is a charitable body that works with local communities to build quality affordable homes that improve neighbourhoods by ensuring that local people don't have to move away.

Thank you.