

When we began the campaign to Save Our College In Todmorden (SOCIT) we were very enthusiastic but we didn't at that time have a legal entity and a constitution. We campaigned for all of our community, Todmorden, Calder Valley and further afield, to join our campaign by signing up to membership for £10 and receiving a promotional jute bag. Over 100 people did this. You'll see from the two versions of membership form that the original is very simple, it names people as founder members and asks for skills offered and what interests in learning would be; it does not ask for a signature, or any agreement to anything.

Now that Todmorden Learning Centre and Community Hub (TLCCH) is a legal entity, a charitable Community Benefit Society, with a Constitution, we have legal duties that must be followed, and one of these covers the legal responsibilities of members, and how to become a member. This has led us to re-write the membership form in accordance with our rules so that memberships of TLCCH are legal and recognised. The new form has lost the simplicity of the first one, but it has to be this way. A member must read and understand the Rules (constitution) of the Society and must sign to say that they accept these rules.

The Board has decided that everyone who submitted the original form and paid £10 will automatically become a member of TLCCH **as long as they sign the new membership form**. If you have not signed the new membership form you will need to do this if you wish to remain a member of TLCCH, the deadline for this is **20<sup>th</sup> October 2018**.

In addition, some memberships were under review by the Board as it was thought they may have brought TLCCH into disrepute. The Board has now agreed that these memberships will be accepted as long as the new membership form is signed, which binds everyone to uphold the Society and act responsibly, meaning that members can disagree internally, but arguments that enter the public domain and bring TLCCH into disrepute can result in membership being reviewed.

The term 'founder member' on the original form does not have any legal meaning, as the form itself does not. It should not be confused with the legal term 'founder member' used in our constitution which refers to the three people who originally came together to set up TLCCH.

Cost of membership: originally we asked for people to pay £10, as we were trying to raise money for the campaign. We have since re-thought this in the light of inclusion, and the Board has decided that membership (the minimum shareholding) will be reset at £1, but we would still encourage everyone to pay £10. Each member receives one share for £1. Anyone who pays £10 receives 10 shares, **but each member only has one vote whatever their shareholding. These shares are your investment in our community, and the success of our venture**. You can at any time increase your shareholding, in particular we may in the future mount a campaign to seek increased investment in our venture, a Community Share offer, which if successful will enable improved facilities for our community.

Finally, we remind you that TLCCH is set up for the benefit of the community, not for the benefit of its members, although most of its members will also be part of the community. Members have a unique responsibility to uphold the constitution.