

# Todmorden Learning Centre and Community Hub Ltd

## ANNUAL REPORT

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018

TLCCH WILL:



ENCOURAGE PEOPLE'S CREATIVITY

AT TLCCH WE CARE ABOUT...



EDUCATION & INNOVATION

Dear Members

Welcome to the Todmorden Learning Centre and Community Hub annual report. I hope you will enjoy reading it and hearing about the work that has been done since the TLCCH was formed. Since I joined the Board of Directors in June 2018 my observation has been that the other Directors, Jan, Barbara, Nick and Robin, are an incredibly hard working and committed group of people. The sheer volume of activity carried out so far is frankly staggering and as a result we are making great progress towards our goal of the asset transfer of the Todmorden College building.

However, our aim is that TLCCH is much more than just a building; indeed that it should be the beating heart of ideas about local education and sustainability. During the public meeting which took place shortly after I joined the Board the public had an opportunity to share their ideas about what the vision, and values, of the college should be. We are delighted to share some of the graphic representations which arise from that work within this report.

At the point I joined the Board the TLCCH were in the aftermath of some resignations from the Board. It's always sad when this happens but not unusual. A new group can struggle with competing ideas and understanding. Since that time the remaining Board have done excellent work in responding to issues raised although we have to accept that you can't please all the people all the time. In such circumstances the constitution, or governing document, provides a critical baseline to ensure that we are working in a way which is legal and accountable. This document was adopted in June 2017 and is available on our website.

I hope you enjoy reading the rest of this report and draw your attention to the financial information on the back page.

Helen Jones  
Co-opted Chair

AT TLCCH WE CARE ABOUT...



EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY

TLCCH WILL:



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### An Eventful First Year

It has been an eventful first year. The society was registered on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017 after eight months of working to prepare the ground to bid for the asset transfer of Todmorden Community College. We thank both Todmorden Town Council and the Upper Calder Valley Renaissance organisation (UCVR) for achieving the registration of the Todmorden Community College (TLC) as an 'Asset of Community Value' which enabled the start of the legal asset transfer process. We also thank Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council for accepting our registration as a suitable organisation to bid for the asset transfer. Once this had happened in June last year we then redoubled our efforts to produce a business plan for the TLC by the deadline date of the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

Most of all we thank all those people of Todmorden and surrounds who supported our campaign to be able to bid for the asset transfer with their efforts, their interest, their donations and membership contributions. Without all those contributions we would not be here today celebrating our progress.

The business plan was submitted on the due date and subsequently we made two presentations to Calderdale Officers. The Calderdale Cabinet decision came on February 12<sup>th</sup> 2018 at a meeting attended by a full house of people from Todmorden who raised a considerable cheer on the announcement of the decision to allow us to go forward to prepare for the asset transfer.

Just before the submission of the plan the board recruited two new members. Unfortunately in May these two members resigned together with our first secretary. Shortly following this event we were very fortunate in recruiting Helen Jones as an independent chair.

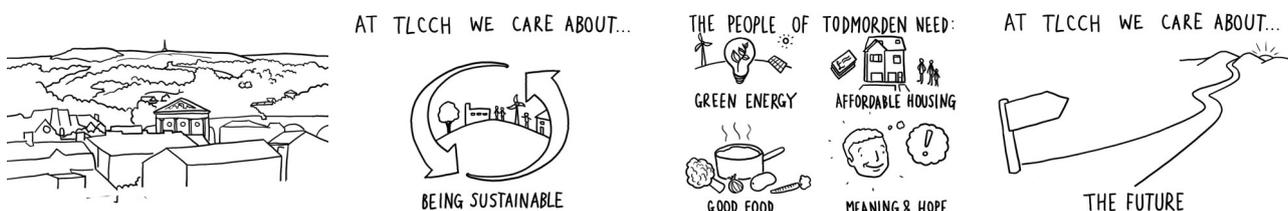
On July 25<sup>th</sup> we held our first general meeting to consider resolutions put to our members by those board members who had resigned testing members confidence in the board. The members voted their confidence in the board.

### Visible Standards and Policy Framework

One of the ways we can assure the public of the quality of our work is via a quality assurance system called the Visible Standards. Jan Peter has carried out sterling work to assess our activities against the standards; we look forward to sharing the resulting report and recommendations soon. We have also registered with a vetting and barring service so that appropriate checks on personnel can be carried out as required.

### Lettings

Another major piece of work has been to agree a lettings policy. We felt it was important that we took the time to consult publicly on this document, critical as it will be in managing the use of the Todmorden College building once the asset transfer takes place in 2019. We're grateful to everyone who commented. The policy has now been finalised and the first lettings panel (including one member of the Board unconnected with any use of the building and two local people) has had its first sitting.



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### Education Group

A group of people representing educational interests that will be offering learning within TLCCH after the asset transfer have been meeting monthly since early this year. These meetings have been extremely useful for networking, sharing knowledge between groups, and giving valuable feedback on the Lettings Policy, as well as other policies. Members include the Worker's Education Association (WEA), Calderdale Adult Learning (CAL), The Children's Centre run by Halifax Opportunities Trust (HOT), the School of Natural Building (SNaB) and various individuals representing arts, crafts, therapies, computer coding and maker spaces.

TLCCH has been able to facilitate the early use of the building before the asset transfer for some of these groups, and contracts with Calderdale Council will be changed to new contracts with TLCCH after the transfer. The group has helped to keep a broad outlook on the sort of education that could be offered in the future.

### Relationships and negotiations

We have been working closely with advisors to help the Board in its work, including support from Locality, Coops UK, and Calderdale Council. The Board has also undergone a major piece of work with consultant Jane Searles on management, and with graphic artist Tom Bailey on vision and values. This last was begun at the special general meeting and continues as it is shared with the youth service, fire service, and other potential users of TLCCH

### Building evaluation

The Board of TLCCH has been working closely with Calderdale Council, meeting monthly to make sure that we have a smooth handover when the transfer takes place. In particular we have been looking at legal aspects of the transfer - the lease is now with our solicitors for approval – and the upkeep of the building, as it will become our responsibility. Calderdale have been helpful in sharing with us schedules for maintenance and repair, costings from previous years, usual contractors, and defining what moveable items (chairs, tables, kettles etc) will be staying in the building and what we will need to replace. The building is useable as it is, but we will need to carry out some decorating and refurbishment work as soon as we can manage after the transfer. This will be where all those who have volunteered for this in the past will have a chance to get stuck in!

### Fundraising

We have made a number of funding applications to support the initial phase of operating the College. The main aim is to allow employment of management and caretaking staff early on, which will head off the need to rent the whole building in a hurry to secure income. A slow start gives the opportunity to pick less commercial but more beneficial tenants. There is also some call for funds to do work to the building, restore the hall and install Wifi. Its been a long process but we have progressed well through multiple stages and hope to have a decision from funders in December. We secured funding from Community Fund For Calderdale a while ago to pay for legal fees and insurance and a small seed funding grant from Power to Change.

Robin Asby, Nick Green, Barbara Jones, Helen Jones, Jan Peter

