

STORTFORD FIELDS

COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT TRUST

Community Matters

Summer 2023

Welcome

Welcome to Community Matters, the first newsletter of the Stortford Fields Community Management Trust (SFCMT). With the Trust now officially registered with Companies House, we are excited to tell you more about its role and responsibilities, and how residents and stakeholders can play a part in shaping the future at Stortford Fields.



History and Moving On

2015

Stortford Fields Consortium of Developers – Taylor Wimpey, Persimmon, Bovis (Vistry) and Kier Living (Tilia) receive outline planning consent for up to 2,200 homes, employment use, community facilities and other infrastructure. The Section 106 planning agreement outlines plan for Community Management.

2017

A proposal approves implementation of a Community Trust for long term maintenance of woodlands, parks, open spaces, community facilities and buildings, alongside 'placemaking'.

Stortford Fields Estate Management Company (SFEMC) is registered at Companies House as an 'interim organisation'.

East Herts District Council decide this not an appropriate substitute for a Community Trust.

2022

Mark Patchett, from Community Stewardship Solutions, has over 35 years' experience in setting up Community Trusts. He is asked by East Herts District Council to review the existing management of Stortford Fields and make recommendations for a new stewardship solution.

2023

The Stortford Fields Community Management Trust is formed. The Trust is registered at Companies House and first two Trustees appointed.



For the Community, By the Community

Community Trusts are independent charitable organisations which aim to respond to local needs, and are intended to bring about social, economic and environmental benefits to the local community.

Trust Principles:

- *Community-led organisations*
- *Work in partnership on an enterprise approach for social benefits*
- *Own land, buildings and other assets*
- *Registered charities*
- *All profits reinvested for the community*

TRUST *in action*

The Chichester CDT is a great example of a successful trust in action. Have a look at <https://www.chichestercdt.org.uk/> to get a feel for the sorts of events, activities, and functions that a Trust can get involved with.



What will SFCMT look after?

FACILITIES

- ▶ Sports Facilities
- ▶ Community Centres
- ▶ Allotments

PUBLIC REALM

- ▶ Open Space
- ▶ Parks
- ▶ Play Areas
- ▶ Green Corridors
- ▶ SUDS

PLACEMAKING

- ▶ Community Events
- ▶ Arts & Culture
- ▶ Community Development
- ▶ Work and Skills
- ▶ Economic Development
- ▶ Community Cohesion

Trust Assets

The SFCMT will eventually own and manage buildings, land and other assets with profits reinvested to strengthen the community and support what it needs.



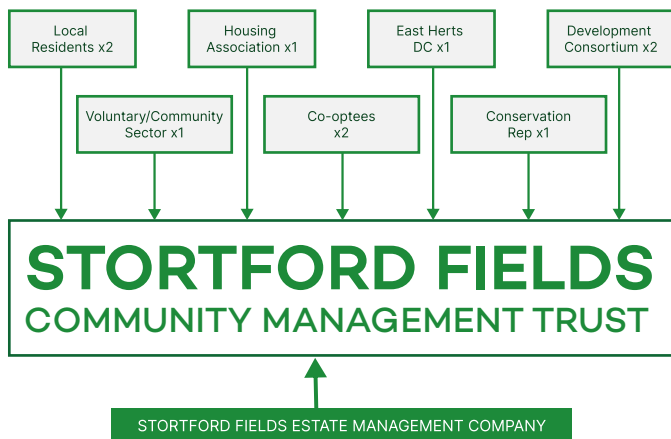
Note: Road layout and adoption will be shared in a separate plan with residents in due course

How is it funded?

- Section 106 planning agreement payments from the four Stortford Fields Consortium developers
- Estate service charge contribution from residents and commercial businesses
- Hire or letting income from community facilities e.g. community hall, pavilion, sports pitches, allotments
- Any other grants, interest or in-kind support as a result of its charity status

Resident contributions are being collected by Gateway Property Management who maintain the development for the Stortford Fields Estate Management Company (SFEMC). The board of the SFEMC currently consists of directors from the Consortium. A resolution to change the Articles of SFEMC has been approved by the Board of Directors, to enable SFEMC to become a subsidiary of the new Trust.

Next steps....forming the Board for SFCMT



The Trust will be fully accountable and transparent with a balanced multi-stakeholder board of Trustees providing a strong mix of skills, attributes and experience. They will operate in the best interests of the Trust. Stortford Fields Community Management Trust has been registered with Companies House and appointed its first two Directors – Andrew Holloway from Taylor Wimpey and Councillor Sarah Copley, Bishop’s Stortford North ward.

The Board will continue to build with recruitment of Residents, Voluntary/Community, Conservation, and Housing Association Trustees in the next few months. The number of resident representatives grows over time per 350 homes occupied – with over 700 homes currently occupied, there are two resident positions currently to fill. This ensures the Board is not full at the outset and residents in later phases can join. As the Consortium developers complete their building work, they will depart from the Trust board. The two co-optee positions will be held by people who bring a specialist skill set to support the Board activities, e.g. Finance, HR.

How can I be involved?

Anyone who previously completed an Expression of Interest to join the Trust Board has been contacted and sent more information about what is required from a Trustee. The Resident, Community, Volunteer and Conservation trustee roles are all still open for application.

If you would like to be considered for a Trustee role, please email info@stortfordfieldscmt.org.uk. Applicants will be asked for a short CV and statement of experience explaining how they might contribute to the success of the Trust. The deadline for applications is **31 August 2023**.

Interviews will be held with Community Stewardship Solutions, with a view to making the first two resident appointments in September, followed by the Community, Volunteer and Conservation trustee positions.

Once the full Trust board is in place, there will also be opportunities for volunteers to get involved in Trust activities and make positive changes in the community. As the Trust evolves, there will also be job opportunities.

Keep in touch?

www.stortfieldscmt.org.uk - is being developed and has a holding page in place
Email us at info@stortfordfieldscmt.org.uk