

Granby 4 Streets Community Land Trust



10 homes
Homes for sale

For further information:
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Granby Four Streets Community Land Trust was set up in 2011 by a number of community activists, with a vision to grow, maintain and sustain a thriving community in the Toxteth area of Liverpool. Originally an area with wide streets of Victorian terraces, Granby was a busy street with many thriving businesses. But by the mid 1970s, the area had started to decline as unemployment increased. Following the Liverpool 8 riots of 1981, life in the Granby area became increasingly bleak. More and more shops went out of business, and empty houses appeared as people's perceptions of the area became more negative. The Granby Residents Association formed in the 1990s to fight demolitions of the remaining homes, and it lobbied the council and saved the neighbourhood which has now become the Four Streets. The Residents Association disbanded in 2010, and it seemed that the whole area would succumb to the various regeneration programmes that had come and gone – generally having demolished more homes.

However, around this time, residents started planting up the streets with flowers in huge tubs and ivy climbing up the empty buildings. They started a monthly community market and painted the tinned up windows of the empties with curtains and vases of flowers. They wanted to make

it a better place to live, but also to remind people they were still there. This grass roots activity led to the formation of the Granby Four Streets Community Land Trust in 2011. With national cost cutting measures bringing an end to the demolitions, the CLT lobbied and developed a relationship with the Council, and became the catalyst for various organisations, including Plus Dane and Liverpool Mutual Homes, to share the financial risks of refurbishing the houses.

Work started on renovating 10 homes for the CLT in 2014. Raising £1m in grant and loan finance, the CLT recruited an architect and another developer, social investor "Steinbeck Studios" to work on plans to renovate further homes that the community had resigned itself to losing. The CLT also developed a partnership with COSPA and Ambition to use the renovations as an opportunity for local young people to gain experience and training, and, with a commitment from the council to donate four empty corner shops, the CLT is applying for a Heritage Lottery grant to renovate them. Start-up pro bono support, seed funding to cover set up costs and the use of facilities such as meeting spaces has also been provided by North West Housing Services, who support many housing co-ops across the North West and particularly in Liverpool 8, and by Steve Biko Housing Association.



It has been an exciting couple of years, but also very hard work, as all of us are volunteers. The range of support provided by NWHS has been invaluable in assisting the CLT to achieve its objectives to date.

Eleanor Lee, a long standing Cairns street resident and founder board member



Derelict properties at the junction of Granby Street and Cairns Street