

# HIGH STREET HEBDEN BRIDGE

The past – and the future?



1961 map showing houses at High Street and Bridge Lanes

## High Street – the past

Older people in Hebden Bridge remember well the densely packed streets of terraced houses between Bridge Lanes and Heptonstall Road. This area, centred on the road known as High Street (named for its elevation, not its commercial nature) also including Back High Street and Croft Place, was one of the earliest major settlements in the town, dating back at least to the early nineteenth century. Housing in now more 'central' areas of the town (including Birchcliffe, Fairfield and the streets off Market Street and Hangingroyd Lane) was built much later in the century.

The High Street terraces and the north side of Bridge Lanes were demolished in the 1960s but the foundations were left in place, leaving a very ugly scar at the western entrance to Hebden Bridge. It was only through voluntary community efforts, led by members of the then Civic Trust, that landscaping of this eye-sore was undertaken.

Our photographs are taken from the extremely extensive collection held by the Pennine Horizons Digital Archive (PHDA). Our thanks to Frank Woolrych and Ann Kilbey for their help.



High Street

PHDA - Alice Longstaff Gallery Collection

Front page: Bridge Lanes before demolition PHDA - Alice Longstaff Gallery Collection

Back page: Bridge Lanes after demolition PHDA - Hebden Bridge Camera Club



The north side of Bridge Lanes.

PHDA - Alice Longstaff Gallery Collection



Looking over the roof tops of High Street.

PHDA - Ronda Ashworth Collection



Houses on the north side of Bridge Lanes being demolished in April 1964.

PHDA - Alice Longstaff Gallery Collection



Demolition of Croft Place, 1963

PHDA - Hebden Bridge Camera Club

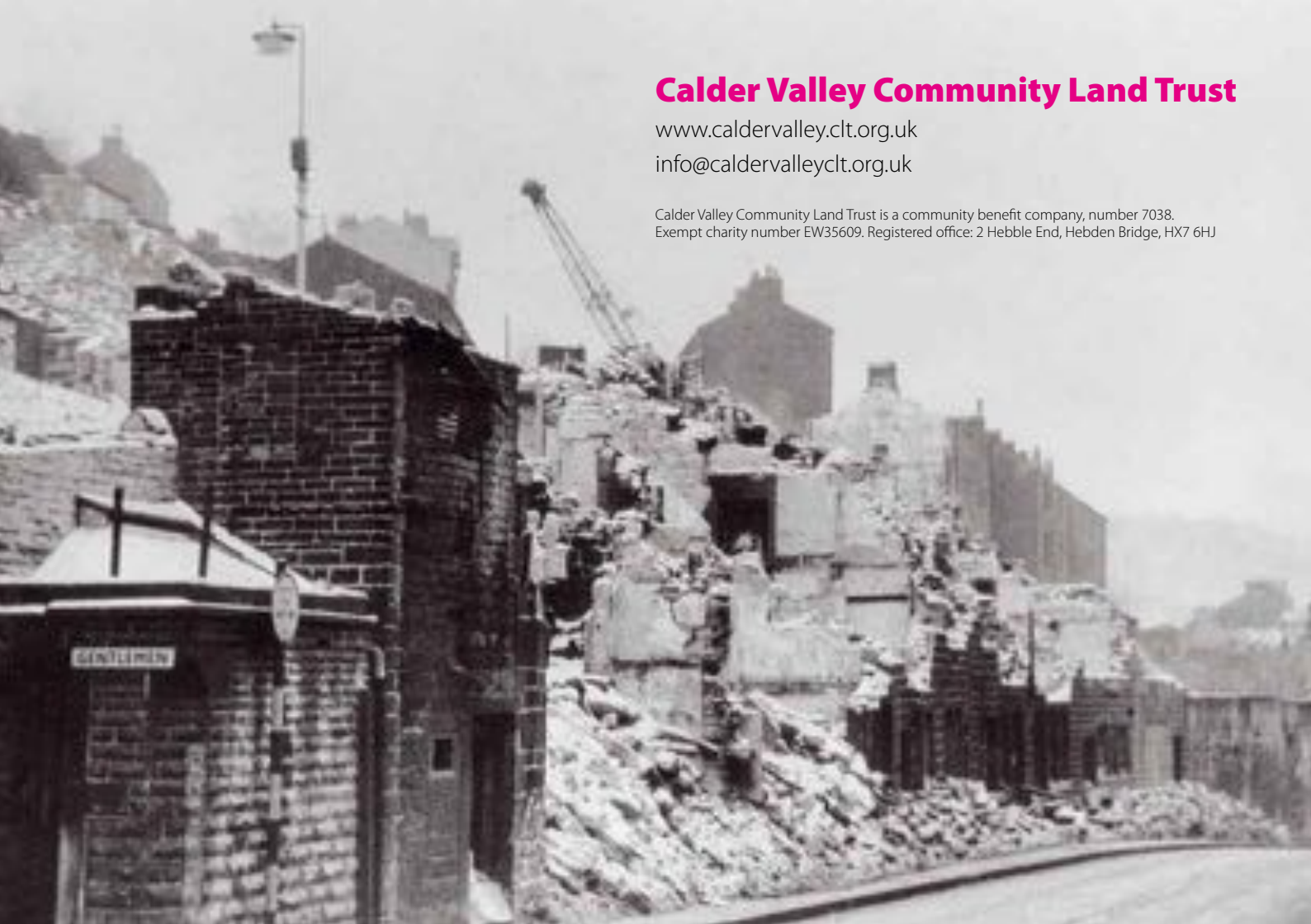
## High Street – the future?

Calder Valley Community Land Trust is a charitable community benefit society set up in 2014. It works to hold land and property in trust for the communities of the upper Calder Valley and to help facilitate the development of more affordable housing.

To meet housing needs, Calderdale council's Housing Strategy has suggested that Hebden Bridge will need to accommodate 346 new homes by 2030. The Community Land Trust's view is that, to avoid incursion into completely undeveloped greenfield sites, we need to explore whether sites in town which formerly had housing can be brought back to life. The High Street site is one of the obvious areas for consideration.

In 2015 the Community Land Trust was awarded a pre-feasibility grant to assess whether more detailed planning work is worthwhile. The surveys suggest that it is, and further funding is now being sought to undertake more extensive site evaluation. (Obviously any future development would not repeat the intensity of the old street pattern).

As part of this proposed work, in 2016 the Trust will be launching an extensive period of community engagement about the possibilities. We have questions which need answering. Can High Street live again? Is the policy of putting new housing on former housing areas the right one? How might any possible developments be designed to keep the area as green as possible? We will welcome your views. You can reach us on [info@caldervalleyclt.org.uk](mailto:info@caldervalleyclt.org.uk)



## **Calder Valley Community Land Trust**

[www.caldervalley.clct.org.uk](http://www.caldervalley.clct.org.uk)

[info@caldervalleyclct.org.uk](mailto:info@caldervalleyclct.org.uk)

Calder Valley Community Land Trust is a community benefit company, number 7038.  
Exempt charity number EW35609. Registered office: 2 Hebble End, Hebden Bridge, HX7 6HJ