

About Totnes Community Development Society

Totnes Community Development Society is an Industrial Provident Society (IPS) for the Benefit of the Community, established in 2012. It is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and is governed by a Board of voluntary Directors.

The logo for Totnes Community Development Society is a red rectangle with the text "Totnes Community Development Society" in white. "Totnes" is on the top line, "Community" is on the second line, and "Development Society" is on the third line.

The objects of the Society are listed within the Rules and shall be to carry on any business for the benefit of the community by:

- (a) Identifying opportunities to obtain land and buildings, within Totnes and the surrounding area, which have the potential for viable community use.
- (b) Working with other organisations to develop such opportunities to ensure that they are brought into community use.
- (c) Undertaking these development opportunities in a manner that will ensure their environmental and financial sustainability over the long term.
- (d) Ensuring that the maximum value from these development opportunities, during construction and thereafter, is retained within the local economy.
- (e) Ensuring the democratic control of these development opportunities by the community through the establishment of an appropriate level membership of this Society.
- (f) Providing an opportunity for public-spirited people and organisations to contribute financially to the community, with the expectation of a social dividend.

Directors meet each month to review all aspects of activity of TCDS and ensure that projects are moving forward in line with the organisations strategy and the Rules of the organisations. Directors can hold specific roles which are recognised as part of regulatory structures internally and externally e.g., Chair and Secretary. Some Directors may be the lead person connected to a particular aspect of work or project.

- TCDS is Trustee of the King Edward VI Site Foundation, which means it is responsible for the management of the Mansion, a listed building used for community activities in the centre of Totnes.
- TCDS leads Atmos Totnes, a project which seeks to redevelop an 8 acre disused dairy in the centre of Totnes for affordable homes, business space and community facilities.

Members of TCDS come together to vote on elements of the rules and governance decision making on a regular basis, at least once a year, to enable the overarching governance of the organisation to remain democratic. Members come from Totnes and surrounding areas and support the Directors, who have ultimate responsibility for the organisation. Members are admitted to the organisation through Directors meetings and are usually those that have undertaken long term volunteering roles with the organisation, and are therefore familiar with projects and working systems. It is likely that in the next year this membership will widen considerably as the organisation develops.

The Mansion is a community facility in the centre of Totnes. It was previously an old school building and through several extensions has become a multifaceted building housing seven tenant organisations and sessional users. Tenants includes the town library, a nursery, cafe and the local FE provision for the town and surrounds. The Charity Commission recognises the Foundation as:

A centre for the provision of facilities for the promotion of further education for the inhabitants of Totnes, and subject thereto for meeting, lectures, classes, physical exercise and other forms of recreation and other leisure time occupation in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.