



Sturts Community Trust is a registered charity and housing association, whose base is two farms (Sturts Farm and Gulliver's Farm) on the outskirts of West Moors. It comprises six small neighbourhoods on site and some houses in the local community (Clover Cohousing).

Sturts is home to working organic biodynamic farms, an active social enterprise which includes Gulliver's Farm Shop and an inclusive cohousing community which includes people with learning disabilities. For well over 30 years, it has been offering opportunities in its land based social enterprise and supported living for adults who have a learning disability.

<https://www.sturtscommunitytrust.org.uk/community-housing/>

Sturts Community Trust recently opened a new major development – **Twin Oaks** – on the West Moors site and was celebrated during an event held on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

This event was to recognise some significant achievements made within a challenging year. The Recipients of recognition were; Frontline workers who worked throughout the height of the pandemic; David Seeley, for his 2021 West Moors Good Citizen of the Year Award for challenging himself, going above and beyond to help and serve not only members of the Sturts Community but also the local community; Mo Doyle, a valued leaving Trustee who committed to the Board steadfastly for 8 years; The generous donor for funding a tractor and for donation towards the Twin Oaks development; The resolute and multi-skilled team that made Twin Oaks a reality; The various grantors who generously donated towards this development for inclusive living and to the Trustee working group who worked consistently in the background giving time and attention to detailed formalities.

West Moors Town Council were proud to be one of those who were thanked.

*The vision of Sturts is one that cannot be achieved autonomously. West Moors Town Council has been amongst those that have demonstrated support to the Charity, particularly by its interest in Sturts and valuing Sturts being part of West Moors community as a whole. Most recently, the Town Council were supportive in the process of looking into the options available for supported people to be able to cross safely when going into Town or to Gulliver's Farm Shop - where the produce grown, cared for and harvested by people at Sturts is sold and used for the Farm Shop Menu and Deli Kitchen products. The ability for people to enjoy independence safely is a priority at Sturts; The engagement and understanding shown by the Town Council of how the ability to cross roads safely, for example, can have a huge impact on the day to day life of people who are supported at Sturts is valued and appreciated. This year Sturts had to cancel its annual events such as Farmival and Barn on The Farm, where people in West Moors join us for games, food and live music. It was a pleasure to welcome Councillor Yeo and Mrs Facwett representing West Moors Town Council and have the opportunity to thank the Town Council, to enable a glimpse of what inclusive cohousing living looks like in practice and to celebrate together in, what turned out to be, rather pleasant weather conditions.*

*Sturts Management Team*

Cllr Mrs Penny Yeo and Assistant to the Clerk Mrs Amie Fawcett, attended the celebration and accepted a beautiful bunch of flowers, each with a Thank You card handwritten by the companions from the Community. Amongst the festivities was food, music and a midsummer fire.

The presentation included flowers, cards, commemorative coins and a pleasant song from the tenants of the Twin Oaks neighbourhood.