

Chorlton Cohousing

Purpose, values and guiding principles

Purpose

The aim of Chorlton Cohousing is to build a highly sustainable, socially inclusive and self-reliant neighbourhood based on the principles of cohousing, focussed on, but not exclusive to, the needs of people aged 50 and above.

Many of our current members are attracted to the idea of cohousing because we want to live more sustainably and to be part of a strong community as we grow older. Some people want to down-size or to make the most of a fixed income and many want to ensure their home is well designed for any future needs and in a vibrant community with neighbourly support.

We aspire to offer a supportive environment, enabling independent living for as long as possible. We will live in our own individual dwellings designed to support and adapt to our needs as we age. Some facilities will be shared, including multi-purpose communal space for social events, meetings, shared meals and exercise; guest rooms; laundry and garden. These will promote opportunities for social interaction and encourage a strong community.

We are currently looking at potential sites in South Manchester.

We are aiming to:

- Develop a new build project of approx. 20-24 dwellings.
- Create a green development with the highest practicable standards of sustainability in terms of construction, maintenance, running costs and gardens with trees, flowers and vegetables.
- Create a design that enables supportive interaction with each other and the wider community.
- Provide a positive alternative to the limited choice of living arrangements currently available.
- If possible, provide mixed tenure, including owner occupation, shared ownership and units for rent.
- Learn from other cohousing and green build projects and share our learning with others.

Values:

To contribute and share responsibility for the development of the project.

To maintain a structure without hierarchy.

To accept and respect the diversity of others.

To offer mutual support to each other whilst respecting privacy.

To participate in sustaining constructive and harmonious relationships with stakeholders and the wider community.

To respect and care for the environment and the buildings.

Guiding Principles

Members will have commitment to:

- The Cohousing type of collaborative and sustainable living that combines the benefits of people owning or renting residences with the advantages of shared resources.
- Giving time and taking on roles and responsibilities within Chorlton Cohousing to ensure the success of the development and creation and ongoing maintenance of a positive community environment.
- Living in a mutually supportive way which enables residents to thrive and promotes wellbeing to help sustain an independent life.
- Creating a balance between interdependence as a community and independence for individuals, ensuring the design of personal and community space reflects this.
- Treating all people equally and with respect, irrespective of their age, disability, gender reassignment, marital status or civil partnership, ethnicity, race, religion or belief, income level, sex or sexual orientation.
- Conduct, behaviour, communication and actions which reflects an ethos that is non-judgemental, respectful, appreciative of different perspectives, compassionate and caring.
- Living sustainably, including minimisation of unnecessary consumption of resources and using renewable technologies for designing, building and living in our community.
- Where possible, ensuring interactions, including procurement with external organisations abide by an ethical policy, and goods and services are locally sourced.

(With acknowledgement to Much and Still Green)

I accept and agree to abide by the above purpose, values and guiding principles of Chorlton Cohousing.

Name:

Date:

Signature: