

# COMMUNITY LED HOUSING



February 2020



# WELCOME TO HOMES OF OUR OWN

Welcome to the first edition of the Homes of Our Own newsletter where you will find updates for community led housing in Wiltshire and Swindon.

There have been positive changes in the sector recently, which we wanted to share with you. Further grant funding has established the new Community Led Housing hub for Wiltshire and Swindon.

## Who we are

Homes of Our Own is a partnership between Community First, Wiltshire Community Land Trust, Wiltshire Council, Swindon Borough Council.

## What we do

We provide support, advice and project management assistance to community groups to deliver Community Led Housing schemes.



# HOMES OF OUR OWN LAUNCH

November 2019 saw the official launch of Homes of Our Own, which builds on the work of the Wiltshire Community Led Housing Partnership.

The launch was held at County Hall and was well attended by local Parish Councillors, Housing Associations representatives and a number of Wiltshire Community Land Trusts. It was great to see so many enthusiastic people attend.

Information was provided about Community Led Housing, how to apply for Affordable Housing and the progress of Seend CLT.

Trevor Cherrett, Chair of Wiltshire Community Land Trust and Simon Hendey, Director of Housing and Commercial Development at Wiltshire Council both spoke at the event of their support of the hub and the services it offers.

# MEET THE TEAM

There have been some major changes to the Homes of Our Own Team over the last 6 months.

Vicky Bodman, project manager for the Community Led Housing Project has secured an alternative role and has left the team.

James Taylor, project manager for the Community Led Housing Project has secured an alternative role and has left the team.

We wish them both every success with their new roles.

We are pleased to announce the new Homes of Our Own team who are now in place:

Rebecca Lockwood Norris,  
Project Manager

Louise Newman, Project  
Manager

Natasha Matthews, Project  
Coordinator



Left to right - Rebecca, Natasha and Louise

## COMMUNITY ORGANISING

Homes of Our Own are working closely with Community First to develop a bespoke training course for Community Led Housing organisations to promote and deliver effective community engagement.

We know that for Community Led Housing schemes to be successful there must be support from the community, which can be achieved with meaningful community engagement.

Community First employ Community Organisers who work with communities to reach out and listen, connect and motivate people to work together to identify and find solutions to issues that matter most to people living in their community.

We know that access to affordable homes is a key issue, especially for some of Wiltshire and Swindon's more rural areas.

We hope that providing training opportunities in how to engage with communities in relation to Community Led Housing will enable local organisations to effectively deliver their visions.

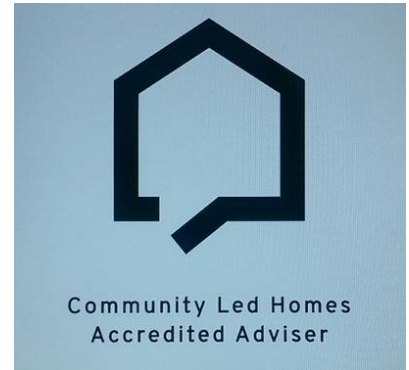
If you would like further information on the training opportunities available, please contact us [here](#).

## TEAM TRAINING

Rebecca has successfully completed her training and is a Community Led Housing (CLH) advisor accredited by the Chartered Institute of Housing.

Louise is currently in the process of undertaking the training.

The course continues to be a great opportunity to develop working relationships with other CLH advisors from across the country and learn from the shared experience.



There is so much work being undertaken in this area and it has been a key opportunity for developing networks across the sector.

## OUT AND ABOUT

The Homes of Our Own team have had a busy few months, working to develop plans for the project over the next year.

The team have also continuing to work with formed Community Land Trusts and discussing possibilities with many across the County.

Work is being undertaken to increase the Hub's presence in Swindon while continuing to work in the rest of Wiltshire.

Rebecca and Louise have attended a number of events within the sector to gather information, network with other Community Led Housing advisors across the country and identify and learn best practice.

This included attending the Bristol Housing Festival which gave them the opportunity to look at new and innovative ways that communities can deliver housing that meets their needs.

With climate change being high on everyone's agenda the team have also been gathering information as to how building homes can be more environmentally friendly.

We have been looking at the benefits and costs of Passivhaus construction and are continuing to gather information on the topic.

These events help the team to ensure that the services and information they provide are of the best quality and meet the needs of the groups being supported.

# COMMUNITY LED HOUSING IN WILTSHIRE

As Homes of Our Own moves forward we are continuing to work with community groups to deliver affordable housing across Wiltshire and will be shortly looking at ways in which we can engage with groups in Swindon.

Key highlights from our groups are as follows:

**Seend CLT** have been working incredibly hard with the community, PK Architects and White Horse Housing and are making excellent progress with their development. They are in the final stages of creating their planning application for 10 affordable homes in the parish.

More information on their development can be found at [www.seendclt.org](http://www.seendclt.org).

**Cricklade Development Foundation** are continuing to scope their plans for the future including working on a strategy group for regenerating the High Street. They have also developed their new website [www.crickladefoundation.org.uk](http://www.crickladefoundation.org.uk) which is now live.

In addition to this their AGM will be held on 31 March 2020 at 7.30pm at Cricklade Town Hall.

**Pewsey CLT** are now an incorporated body and also continue to scope their plans for future development.

The 13 February 2020 sees the Pewsey CLT AGM at 6pm at the Bouverie Hall, Pewsey.

**Worton Parish Council** are hosting an event in early spring to provide details about Community Led Housing, to discuss possible

sites and to engage with the community.

Homes of Our Own and Seend Community Land Trust are supporting the event and will be a great opportunity for the community to gather information about how Community Led Housing could be delivered in the village.

The event will be held on Friday 03 April 2020 at 7pm in Worton Village Hall.

**Colerne CLT** have invited Homes of Our Own to present at their official launch event on Thursday 26th March in Colerne Village Hall starting at 7:30pm.

Other contributors include Seend CLT. The event is supported by Colerne Parish Council and the Colerne Neighbourhood Plan Group.

## FUNDING UPDATE

Applications to the Community Housing Fund administered by Homes England closed on 31 December 2019 and the fund closes on 31 March 2020.

We are anticipating an update from Central Government upon announcement of the budget in early March 2020 but at present, we are not aware that the fund will be extended.

The National Community Land Trust Network have created a manifesto to encourage the government to back Community Led Housing and are asking for Community Land Trusts across the Country to support their campaign.

To find out more about how you can get involved, please visit the National Community Land Trust Networks website [here](#).

There are other funding options available which can include grants for particular groups and projects.

Please contact us if you would like further information or to discuss this in more detail.

## PARTNERSHIP WORKING

The team have been working closely with our partners to build strong and resilient relationships and to ensure that all resources are utilised to promote Community Led Housing.

We are continuing to work closely and effectively with White Horse Housing who are keen supporters of Community Led Housing schemes in local areas.

We are always looking for interest from other Registered Providers of social housing to help groups to deliver much needed affordable homes in the local area.

If you are interested in finding out how you can work with us, please get in touch.

## IN THE NEWS

Community Led Housing continues to be a topic of conversation in both the local and national news.

The Gazette and Herald attended the Homes of Our Own launch event, you can read a copy of their report [here](#).

Seend CLT held a well-attended consultation event in January which saw the attendance of around 40 members of the community. Residents were able to look at the final plans of the new homes created by PK Architects alongside a 3D presentation of how the development would look. For more information on the consultation event, please see [here](#).

Aster, a Housing Association based in Devizes are working with a Gloucestershire CLT to build 23 affordable homes near Stroud. You can read more about this [here](#).

In December 2019, the national Community Led Homes partnership published an interesting report into loneliness within the UK. It looks at how Community Led Housing can be key in reducing loneliness. You can read more [here](#).

## ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY

Wiltshire Council is engaging with Town and Parish Councils across Wiltshire on two important environmental matters through a Green Infrastructure and Open Space survey. The survey is in two parts with the main aim being to update the data held on open spaces, so that the Green Infrastructure and Open Space strategies can be finalised on the most current information.

The Open Space Strategy will take into consideration existing and future local need whilst the Green Infrastructure Strategy will set a framework for strategic green and blue (water) infrastructure within Wiltshire. The Green Infrastructure strategy, once finished, will inform planning applications and planning policy.

The survey will be sent directly to Parish Councils. If you would like further information, please contact [spatialplanningpolicy@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:spatialplanningpolicy@wiltshire.gov.uk)

## CONTACT US

If you're interested in learning more about how Homes of Our Own can support you to deliver Community Led Housing in your local area, please contact us.

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Email: [homesofourown@communityfirst.org.uk](mailto:homesofourown@communityfirst.org.uk)