



Transport Policy

Please note:

Anyone applying to purchase and lease, or rent, a property from Five Rivers Cohousing will be required to confirm their agreement with this policy.

Background

National Policy

Five Rivers Cohousing has always been committed to working within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2019) to promote sustainable transport.

The National Planning Policy Framework states the following about plans for development:

"Plans should protect and exploit opportunities for the use of sustainable transport modes for the movement of goods or people. Therefore, developments should be located and designed where practical to:

- accommodate the efficient delivery of goods and supplies
- give priority to pedestrian and cycle movements, and have access to high quality public transport facilities
- create safe and secure layouts which minimise conflicts between traffic and cyclists or pedestrians, avoiding street clutter ...
- incorporate facilities for charging plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles
- consider the needs of people with disabilities by all modes of transport."

Local Authority policy

Sheffield City Council (SCC) recommends that organisations which are developing sites and are applying for planning permission draw up a Travel Plan. This Five Rivers Cohousing Transport Policy and Strategy incorporates the Travel Plan. SCC Travel Plan guidance 2017 states "...at the core are measures to reduce the need to travel, reduce reliance on the car and promote sustainable travel (bus, cycle, walk, car share). With increasing levels of traffic, congestion and vehicle emissions (linked to air quality and climate change) travel plans are becoming ever more important."

Five Rivers Cohousing policy

Five Rivers' commitment to reducing the environmental impacts of travel and promoting active travel is shown in our **Sustainability Matrix** (agreed January 2021) and the **General Brief** for the Design of the scheme that we agreed in January 2020.

From Five Rivers Cohousing Sustainability Matrix:

3.3.4 We will engage actively in any local campaigns which complement our objectives, for example defending local amenities and services, including public transport.

4.2.4 We will adopt a transport sharing scheme, including cars, bikes, and electric bikes, and we will provide electric charging points.



From Five Rivers Cohousing General Brief:

We will encourage use of public transport, bicycles, and walking, and initiate a car sharing scheme. Any parking will be located as close as possible to existing and/or new road access points to minimise traffic movement across the site. Emergency and delivery access is to be provided to minimum standards using sub-strata membranes which allow grass and ground-loving plants to grow through.

Site considerations

Our choice of Spider Park in Wisewood for our scheme was, in part, because of its accessibility by public transport. This has improved considerably since we first considered the site in 2017. There is a bus service to and from Wisewood, including in the evenings. It is a 20 minute walk to the nearest tram stop, the tram providing regular and quick access to the city centre.

It has good local roads and paths for walking and cycling on. Shops, schools, medical and sports facilities are all close at hand or relatively easy to reach without using cars.

Five Rivers' Cohousing is in consultation with local councillors and is keenly aware of concerns in the local community about the impact of the development on parking and road safety.

Implications of the Transport Policy

The policy implications of our commitments to sustainability, limited impacts on the local community and reduced carbon use, are:

The reduction of car use:

We will be encouraging vehicle sharing from the outset of the project. Members are already researching local alternatives to individual car use, such as car pools managed by the scheme or possibly a local car club in conjunction with the local community. Members are looking at car rental and there may be the option of vehicle leasing contracts negotiated with a local provider. Taxi firms which have low emission vehicles in their fleet will be promoted over other firms.

Reduced need for car parking spaces

Due to the Company's policy of reduced car use we believe that fewer car parking spaces will be needed than is usually required by Local Authority planning applications. We are suggesting that 15 car parking spaces will be needed, including 3 specifically designated for disabled car users and their visitors. We are aware of other newbuild schemes around the country where Planning Departments have recognised that having fewer car parking spaces frees up land for other more sustainable purposes and reflects government and local policies of reducing car use in favour of more sustainable modes of travel, for example in Milton Keynes. The previous application for this site in Wisewood, which was granted outline planning consent, was for 9 or 10 detached houses which would each have had at least 2 car spaces. That scheme did not attract negative responses from the local community, so we anticipate that our scheme would be seen as an improvement for the local neighbourhood.



Promotion of Active Travel The Company will encourage the use of bikes, including electric bikes, and suitable and secure storage for these will be provided. The Company will also aim to set up a bike share scheme for those who wish to use it, in order to limit the number of bikes needing storage.

Visitors will be encouraged to travel to/from the site on foot, bicycle or public transport, by providing them with guidance on the best ways to do so without using cars, and will be given a copy of this policy where appropriate.

It is expected this will reduce the number of visitors' cars potentially being parked on Sevenfields Lane and the policy will thus reduce the impact on the local community.

Transport Strategy

In order to work towards the aspirations of our Transport Policy we will:

- Engage everyone living at or planning to live in the Five Rivers Cohousing project with the process of implementing and reviewing our transport policy
- Survey members and prospective members about how they are planning to reduce car use and get involved with active travel
- Get involved with any local campaigns which complement our objectives, for example defending local amenities and services, including public transport
- Develop and implement a transport sharing scheme/car pool for cars, bikes, and electric bikes. Types of cars preferred will be (in order of preference):
 1. Electric vehicles - provision will be made for recharging them;
 2. Petrol-electric Hybrid vehicles;
 3. Diesel-electric Hybrid vehicles;
 4. Petrol vehicles;
 5. Diesel vehicles.
- Identify and promote local providers of car rental services
- Provide electric vehicle charging points
- Ensure the limited number of car parking spaces are specifically designated according to need and agreement by the community. The environmental impact of the vehicle will also be a factor. The Company will ensure that spaces are located away from the houses and flats where possible, and are located towards the main road access and on site boundaries, mindful of the need to ensure cohousing vehicles are not parked routinely on Sevenfields Lane
- Ensure that car parking spaces are positioned so that they do not impede access by essential emergency, refuse collection and delivery vehicles



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- Ensure that motor vehicles on site are subject to strict speed limits and conditions
- The Company will encourage the coordination of online orders to reduce the number of delivery vans to the development
- Ensure secure bike storage for bikes including electric bikes
- The Company will include bike sharing in its system for vehicle sharing in order to reduce the number of bikes needing storage.