



ner, more neighbourly way to live in Sheffield

DEAR COHOUSING SUPPORTERS,

PLANNING CONSENT.



Planning approval granted!

There are conditions, but wowee, a significant moment! Recruiting now for last 3 or 4 dwellings. Families and young people especially welcome. Contact us for details of info session in June.

You may already be aware of the exciting news that we have been granted approval for the planning application for our scheme! There are conditions, but nothing that sounds too arduous for us to meet.

The next phase is likely to be intense, and will involve sorting out the lease, survey and finalising design in readiness for the signing of contracts and proceeding with the build.

RECRUITMENT.

We have done well with recruiting new members and are especially pleased to have been already joined by 2 young couples, one with a child, and with serious interest from two or three other families. So, we are on our way to a good, balanced multi-generational mix. **One, possibly two of our families will be moving to Sheffield ahead of the scheme being built and will need to rent for a year or so. If, by any chance, you know anyone with a property they rent out, please do get in touch.**

We have held a couple of info sessions where we have targeted publicity towards younger people and families, with one more coming up in June, so If you can think of any younger families, or anyone else who might be interested in joining us, please do encourage them to look on our website and email us for more info - before it's too late! (You can copy and paste this photo → to send on to your contacts)

We just have 4-6 units potentially available, mostly 2 and 3 bed houses, although we are holding off from allocating them to private buyers until we conclude our feasibility study as to whether a small number of affordable homes could be provided in partnership with either the council or a Housing Association. This

Five Rivers Cohousing: Wisewood S6
PLANNING APPROVAL JUST GRANTED!

SAT 18 JUNE (A.M)
INFORMATION SESSION
FOCUS ON FAMILIES
AND YOUNG PEOPLE
BOOK NOW!

Visit the site, meet us, see the plans.
 For details & to book a place:
info@fiveriverscohousing.org.uk
 website: fiveriverscohousing.org.uk

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE LAST 4 OF OUR 22 PROPERTIES IN SHEFFIED 6!
 PRIORITY TO FAMILIES OR YOUNG PEOPLE WISHING TO BUY WITH 1 OR 2 FRIENDS.
 RENTING OPTIONS MAY ALSO BE AVAILABLE.
 MIGHT YOU, OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW, BE INTERESTED IN JOINING US? WE'D LIKE TO MEET YOU!
 CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE.
 EMAIL US FOR OUR INFO PACK.


 A greener, more neighbourly way to live in Sheffield



has always been an aspiration, but is quite a complex and challenging thing to achieve. Which takes me neatly on to.....

LOAN SUPPORT – short term and longer term

To help us fund the building of our scheme, some of you have already provided us with a low interest loan - **for which we are immensely grateful.** 😊 We are very pleased to say that our finances now seem viable, although further loans would give us comfort that we could meet unexpected contingencies and would help keep our borrowing costs down further.

Our loan prospectus proposed a minimum loan of £5,000, in order to keep the loan administration manageable but, mindful that some of you told us you could only lend a smaller amount, **we are waiving that condition and would welcome new loan offers of smaller (or larger!) sums.** If you are willing to support our project in this way please send an email to treasurer@fiveriverscohousing.org.uk

We are delighted to have partnered with **Share Instead Housing Co-op** who are selling their current house in Nether Edge to purchase units with Five Rivers to offer at affordable rents to five new co-op members. This is a great addition to our offer, and we feel very positive to have made this start in keeping our scheme as accessible as possible.

We are also continuing to explore making more units available for rental or shared ownership. This would mean securing some longer-term loan funding going forward after “completion”, when current loans towards building the scheme will be repaid. New loans (to Five Rivers or to Share Instead) from this point would keep borrowing costs down and thus help make rents more affordable and shared ownership more feasible. We appreciate it may be difficult to predict, **but if longer-term support may be something you’d consider, perhaps by rolling on an existing Supporter Loan, please let us know.** Once again, via treasurer@fiveriverscohousing.org.uk.

WAYS TO HELP

There are some other ways you can support us, and we’d be very pleased to hear from you, particularly if you have a bit of time and experience to help with getting the word out via social media, website improvements, making a little promotional video or suchlike. Following us on social media, ‘liking’ our



Facebook posts or tweets and sharing them on to your networks is a great help.

There are often one-off tasks that volunteers could take on, not always the most inspiring tasks, but incredibly valuable to have a bit of a hand with.

So, if you feel you could give us a one-off or regular chunk of time to help us with tasks, please get back in touch and we will be happy to put you to work!

THANK YOU so much for all your help up to now and in future. As well as the practicalities, like loans, being so important, it is immensely heartwarming to have a group of people who appreciate the value of cohousing and are rooting for us.

Warm regards, from all at Five Rivers Cohousing