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Community-led Housing: Finance options, support and resources

PLANED, Friday 21 February 2025

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- Who are you?
- Where have you come from today?
- What are you hoping to get out of the event?

Cwmpas is a development agency working for positive change

We believe our economy and society should work differently, putting people and planet first





Communities Creating Homes

Our goal is to support the development of an established and thriving Community-led Housing sector that continue to increase the support of genuinely affordable, low carbon, community-led homes.





What is Community-led Housing?



Led by the community



Community ownership, management or stewardship



Collective benefit



Affordable housing



CLH models



Cohousing is a design methodology creating places that encourage social interaction between residents



Housing co-operatives own or manage homes that are controlled democratically by their members.



Community Land Trusts (CLTs) are communityowned organisations set up to provide and protect assets of community value, like housing.



Nolton and Roch CLT

- CLT established by community council in response to lack of affordable homes
- Developing 19 affordable, low carbon homes for local people
- Grant of £100,000 from Pembrokeshire County Council to buy the site (from second homes tax levy)
- Working in partnership with Ateb Housing Association who will be accessing government funding to develop



"It is a no brainer! We need affordable housing for residents now and for those in the future. Many wages simply cannot cover the average rent or sale price at the moment in the area."

(ANONYMOUS HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY RESPONSE)

HAVE YOUR SAY!



Rhisom Housing Co-op

- Housing co-op focussed on providing homes for the LGBTQ+ community in Cardiff
- Purchasing a commercial building and converting it to a 7-unit home with a community hub at ground level
- Secured a grant from Welsh Government to purchase the building and support them through the planning process
- Other finance sources: loanstock (peer lending) and loan from the Ecology Building Society







Gwyr CLT

 A group of local families developing 14 zerocarbon shared ownership affordable homes

 Cohousing design ethos – prioritising pedestrians and promoting social interaction

- 50% self-build/sweat equity using local, natural and renewable materials
- Priority given to those working and living in the area
- Pre-development grant funding from Welsh Government secured







So where does the money come from?

- Commercial loans Ecology Building Society, Triodos Bank, Charity Bank, Co-operative and Community Finance
- Grants and soft loans investment at no or significantly reduced interest costs from public funders, charitable trusts and ethical investors
- Community lending community shares, loanstock, crowdfunding
- Public funding Welsh Government, local authority funding
- Equity May come from members investing their own funds

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How? The CLH process

Site Build Live Plan Group Building new Establish Find and Engage with Move in steering group LPA acquire Buy existing Operate good suitable site Assemble **Understand** homes governance housing need professional Feasibility and Refurbish Maintain and viability services Define vision, empty homes manage homes support team mission and Develop Convert business plan Apply for values existing planning Identify and buildings into Choose legal secure funding framework homes



What other support and resources are out there?

- <u>CLH toolkit</u> Communities Creating Homes toolkit
- <u>Community Land Trust network</u> membership organisation offering incorporation service and training for CLTs
- <u>Down to Earth Building Community project</u> developing proposals for sites, concept designs and more...
- <u>Cohousing network</u> membership organisation brings together cohousing groups to learn, share experience and has useful resources such as a cohousing guide
- Co-ops UK, Confederation of Co-operative Housing, Catalyst Collective

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Any questions welcome

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