

Shirle Hill Cohousing is looking for new members – please contact by 1st April 2016

Shirle Hill is a group of people committed to building a co-operative community, sharing the resources of the site and working together. There are currently ten people living on site and two other members who will move in at a later stage. We are looking for new members to join our community and help develop the project. The site consists of a large old house which we are converting to flats and shared space and five new houses which are about to start construction, in an acre of land near Sheffield city centre.

All ten people living on site are currently in the old house but five households will move into their new build houses once these are complete. Three old house flats are already occupied and there will then be space vacant at the back of the house to create one or two new flats. This means that the old house will then consist of four or five flats plus the communal area.



While the additional flats will not be available for someone to live in yet we are keen to find people who may be interested in buying a unit in the old house, designing/developing it to meet their needs and helping shape the future of the project and its communal facilities. We would pass on our learning so far and support the new member(s) in this process. This is what we agreed early on as our principles and expectations:

General principles

- Shirle Hill is a co- housing project established by a group of people who share ideals of mutual support and respect for each other, our buildings and the environment.
- We are registered as a limited company. The site consists of individually owned self- contained units and shared communal indoor and outdoor space.
- We want to be more than good neighbours. In order to facilitate this we provide opportunities to eat and have fun together and share social and creative time.
- We strive to be sensitive to our environmental impact and achieve as high as possible ecological standards within our financial constraints. We share resources whenever possible.
- We seek to develop the site, maintaining and creating green spaces with trees.
- We welcome each other's children, grandchildren and friends into our community.

Common expectations

- We maintain a balance of private and community life with respect for individual and family needs for quiet, autonomy and privacy.
- We strive to share responsibility for each other's welfare but without an expectation that the community will provide care except by agreement.
- We have the minimum number of 'agreements' needed to ensure harmony, reduce conflict and get necessary jobs done.
- We work to a consensus decision-making policy to enable us to reach the best possible solutions to benefit the project as a whole and individual needs as far as possible.
- We expect everyone to be considerate about noise, cleanliness and general tidiness.
- The use of the communal space will generally relate to the follow the following priorities: residents; residents and families; residents' external groups; external groups.

If you would like to visit or have an initial discussion, contact a group member or Stephhowlett@gmail.com; jmbrown3580@hotmail.com; Carolyn.leary@btinternet.com; 07725037375 by 1st April 2016.