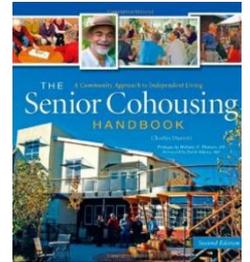


The next Open Meeting is this coming Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1.15 to 4pm in St Columba's Church Hall Cupar



## VIVARIUM CO-HOUSING PROJECT

*a sustainable co-housing community, suited to the over 50's, irrespective of financial circumstance*

### Newsletter 20. March 2016 - Springtime Greetings!

It has been a month of major activity and some change. **The Cupar Muir Site:** Now that the winter cold has reduced the heavy overgrowth on the proposed Cupar Muir site we were finally able to access the area earmarked for the cohousing which is above the lower walled garden. It became very apparent that the steepness of the hill and distance from the bus stop meant that it was a site that would become a difficult uphill walk for those needing to use public transport. Additionally, the gradient would add to the cost and pose design layout difficulty. Together with other factors, we took the hard decision to not go with that site. We thank the developer for the consideration given us regarding this site.

However we have a freshly energised new start which still holds potential for cohousing to be built within two years. The last intense few months have clarified many issues. It is by no means a waste of time and effort. Some of the steering group met with Kingdom Housing Association and they continue to provide support. Huge thanks for their patience and endeavours to help get this project 'right'.

We have commissioned Tom Morton of Arc Architects to site hunt in the Cupar area and there are already some good possibilities. Tom is undertaking feasibility studies and as soon as a site becomes possible we will let prospective residents know so that we can obtain feedback. Douglas Westwater of Community Enterprise Ltd will continue to help identify costs and the financial obligations for a new site.

### Other Cohousing News

The Penington Cohousing group have some draft floor plans for their urban Glasgow flats. These details are available on their website. They have had a hard long journey and we send our best wishes for completion.

<http://www.pencohousing.org.uk/news/floor-plans-now-available>

The only current cohousing in Scotland is a multi-generational one in the Findhorn Foundation campus. With Penington and Vivarium cohousing demonstrated, we hope this will be the start of replication throughout Scotland. The plans are lovely and we hope not to lose members to Penington!

### Edinburgh Cohousing Event. 6pm -8.30pm Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May. Summerhall, Edinburgh.

During the National Festival of Architecture, a SEDA (Scottish Ecological Design Association) debate is planned: 'Land, Community and Homes' – a discussion looking at whether new social housing models like co-housing could help solve the housing crisis. Members from OWCH (Older Women's Co-Housing) will be there. Their London co-house is nearing completion. There will also be members from the Glasgow Penington Cohousing group and from Vivarium. The event costs £5 or £3 for the over 65's. The venue is a short bus ride from Waverly or the bus station: (<http://www.summerhall.co.uk/>). More information will be emailed nearer the time. We hope as many of you as possible will come along. Our thanks go to David Seel of Arc Architects and SEDA and Vivien for helping to spread awareness of cohousing to a wider audience.

### Membership Renewal

Membership renewal of The Vivarium Trust has come round again. We have regrettably increased the fee to help towards our rising costs. Thank you to all who continue to support the trust. We have also started to use Gift Aid so that membership fees can allow the trust to claim tax back at a rate of 25p for every £1.

### Towards a successful cohousing community

It is important that anyone interested, however marginally, in becoming a resident comes forward and joins us in the preparation of any project. The possible campus will be planned for 15 to 24 homes. A prerequisite for residency is participation in development events and open meetings to contribute and get a real feel of what it means to be part of cohousing.

If you are interested in residency as well as support, please fill in our residency questionnaire and your name will be added to a prospective residents list (available from Liz [lizhod@bopenworld.com](mailto:lizhod@bopenworld.com)). At the right time a Living Group will be formed by those keen to take the next steps towards establishing the community. Designing the campus and homes will be happening in the very near future and everyone's wishes and views are important.