



## VIVARIUM CO-HOUSING PROJECT

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

### Newsletter 19 – 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016



*Happy New Year from Vivarium Steering Group – flipcharts & spreadsheets!*

#### ***How was the Steering Group Meeting?***

There was an epic but productive meeting of the Steering Group last week, which was attended by Tom and Douglas Westwater. Sadly Grace and Cecilia could not join us due to family illness.

The group talked about capacity, organisational administration and how this might develop going forward in terms of the separate Living Group organisation and the continuing Vivarium charity.

We talked about the need for support from outside the membership, and what is best done by members to build the group's cohesion and capacity. We discussed whether we might employ Grace again as administrative support and Judith will take this forward with her.

We reviewed the design brief and discussed options of different approaches. Liz will collate Vivarium's comments and forward to Tom for developing the final version of the Design Brief for the Cuparmuir site.

Douglas presented his work on the legal structures for the development project, the financial strategy for the building development and the financial model for how living as part of the new community would work for individual members. There was extensive discussion of this and it was great to get into the real nitty gritty. There's a lot still to be worked through, but with every meeting the proposal becomes clearer and we move forward in the right direction.

Douglas will refine his projections and proposals for the different options before presenting them to the wider Living group membership for their information and comment, before the plan is confirmed.

#### ***So What's the Plan for This Year?***

This year's going to be great. We will get to a stage where we have a firm financial plan that shows how Vivarium will work as a mixed tenure community open to all incomes. We will decide how we want the physical development to proceed. This clarity and progress will allow us to do a drive for new membership, which will renew our energy and carry us forward to start building next year. This is all very exciting, but we will need support from all our members if we are to succeed. So please make sure you come to...

***The next Open Meeting*** on Sunday 31st January –there will be an open social session for members and prospective members and then a closed session for Living group members to discuss the project in more detail.