



VIVARIUM TRUST CO-HOUSING PROJECT

Summer Newsletter August 2016

A sustainable co-housing project for the over 50's
irrespective of circumstances



It's been a while since the last newsletter. What's been happening?

Although we haven't sent out a newsletter we've been keeping busy. Jennifer and Jess have joined Carol, Clare and Judith in the Steering Group. Tony and Liz have both resigned from the Board for personal reasons. The old website has been closed and we now have a new one www.vivariumtrust.scot. Many thanks to Judith who did a great deal of work on it.

So what have the Steering Group been doing?

The Steering Group has been meeting regularly, often with Tom from Arc Architects and Douglas from Community Enterprise. We've discussed Douglas's Business Model document including how the homes can be made affordable for all. There have also been discussions of the Next Phase plans from Douglas and Tom and the way ahead for funding.

If you as a Vivarium member would like to attend the Steering Group meetings and see what's going on for yourself, you'd be very welcome. The next S.G. meeting is at 1.15 in the County Buildings Cupar on Tuesday 30th August – a short walk from the railway station and very close to the big Fluthers car park.

What's the Cupar Living Group? How about a more exciting name?

Not surprisingly, the Living Group is made up of all those who want to live in the Cupar site and, crucially, are willing to help make the whole thing reality. It will have its own legal structure quite separate from the Vivarium Trust, probably as a Community Benefit Company with charitable status.

You may have noticed that other co-housing groups have catchy names like OWCH (Older Women's Co-Housing) and CHOISS (Co-Housing in Southern Scotland). If anyone has any bright ideas about something better for us, then please send suggestions to Jess (jessmitchellster@gmail.com). Ideally the name should include any of the important words like Cupar, Cohousing, Senior, Fife and anything else that seems relevant. The one word which mustn't appear is Vivarium because that's a different set-up. It would be great to decide on a new name at the Open meeting in October so any ideas, preferably lots of ideas, by 30th September. Please.

The New Site. How are things doing?

Tom has been doing a great job with this. Because we hope it will be developed in conjunction with other community groups he's setting up a joint meeting with all the stakeholders very soon. He'd hoped it might be early in September and he's already spoken to some of them. There have been some delays because of holidays so it's slipped a little but everything still seems very positive and he's thinks that early/mid October is probable.

What about finance?

Douglas too has been great. He is submitting a new application to the Tudor Trust. Their previous grant to us was signed off by them in 2014 so they're willing to look at another bid. The Awards for All (Big Lottery Fund) bid was turned down because it didn't meet their criteria. Douglas has helped set up a new bid which is in line with their rules.

When is the next open meeting?

Because so much has been done it's been difficult to compress it into a short newsletter but if you have more detailed questions or would like more information about what's going on, please come to the next open meeting. It's on Saturday, 8th October from 2.00 to 4.30 pm in the Old Parish Centre in Cupar. If you know any one who might be interested, invite them along. I've added a map for anyone who doesn't know it but if any one needs help please contact Jess, email above. We'll send everyone a reminder in September.

