



VIVARIUM TRUST CO-HOUSING PROJECT

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

What's been happening since the last newsletter?

We held an Open Meeting in Inverkeithing at the end of April which was attended by 11 people, a mixture of existing members and interested individuals from the surrounding area. Geraldine Bienkowski of CHOISS co-housing group in Edinburgh gave us an update on their progress and current thinking about legal structures and financial model.

Following our representation to the Cross-party Group on Housing in the Scottish Parliament we have written direct to the Housing Minister, Kevin Stewart MSP, highlighting the barriers to creating affordable co-housing in Scotland, and the potential for senior co-housing in particular to help address some of the Scottish Government's own policy objectives. We have requested a meeting with the minister or senior official to explain what Vivarium is trying to do. Ultimately we are hoping that the Scottish Government will become a partners and help fund Vivarium's development stage as a pilot project.

We have also been connecting with other co-housing groups in Scotland, Kingdom Housing Association and Fife Council members. The need for a higher profile for co-housing in Scotland has been recognised, and we are in discussions with other groups about forming a Scottish Forum which can formally launch the Co-housing Manifesto which has been drafted.

We recently reclaimed the last 4 years' Gift Aid from HMRC - £164, which will be well used.

Remember to keep an eye on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Vivarium-Trust-149914771738275> to see interesting news, events or links of relevance about co-housing and community-led housing from around the UK.

Membership and getting involved

Membership renewal forms for 2017 went out in April, if you haven't got round to renewing (or joining) yet please do so soon, and fill in the Gift Aid form if it is applicable to you. Remember that membership entitles you to attend Steering Group meetings and priority in joining the Living Group when we are in development phase. **The next Steering Group meeting is on Tuesday 6th June at 2.30pm in the Fife Council Offices, County Buildings, St. Catherine St., Cupar.** Steven Tolson, a development surveyor who has been pro-active in advancing co-housing in Scotland will be present to discuss Vivarium's project and give us the benefit of his insights.

We are also always looking for members who want to get more involved in the project development phase, helping out on the Steering Group. If you think that you could spare some time over the coming year we'd love to hear from you, please get in touch with Andrew Prendergast (lonaugh@gmail.com).
