

Cohousing Berkshire

Principles and Values

(With thanks to Charles Durrett and LoCo)

Our primary goal is to create, and then sustain, one or more self-managing communities that achieve a satisfying balance between our needs for privacy and community. We will be guided on this journey by the following principles and values:

- **Balanced and Diverse Communities**

Our aspiration is that our communities will become balanced, diverse, tolerant, supportive, and relaxed.

- **Deliberate Neighbourhood Design**

We value physical design that encourages a strong sense of community and aims to achieve a high level of environmental sustainability. The design will reflect the diversity of residents, their needs and preferences, and will promote integration with surrounding neighbourhoods.

- **Participatory Process**

As prospective residents, we will help to organise and participate in the planning and design process for the housing development, and we will be responsible as a group for final decisions.

- **Common Facilities and Shared Experience**

Common areas and shared occasions are an integral part of the community, designed for daily life, not just special events, and to complement private living areas. As cohousing is designed to foster and promote community spirit we expect everyone to contribute to the shared work of running the community, according to their abilities and preferences. We also expect many occasions, planned or spontaneous, when we enjoy relaxing together if we choose to.

- **Complete Resident Management**

As residents, we will manage the day to day running and strategic planning, making decisions of common concern at community meetings.

- **Flattened Hierarchical Structure**

We will adopt management processes appropriate to the various stages of the development, but always encouraging participation and minimising hierarchy.

- **Separate Income Sources, Shared Responsibility for Common Costs and Overheads**

Each household takes responsibility for their own incomes, and for funding their share of the development. A fair mechanism will be developed for funding common resources, and for covering any residual costs of including affordable housing in a development.

- **Be part of the Movement**

We will be part of the wider Cohousing movement, offering support, sharing knowledge and skills, and acting as ambassadors for the movement.