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Family

'It's like a mini Centre Parcs!'

Imagine a community where you like your neighbours. You share meals and your children grow up together. Joanna Moorhead on the growth in cohousing

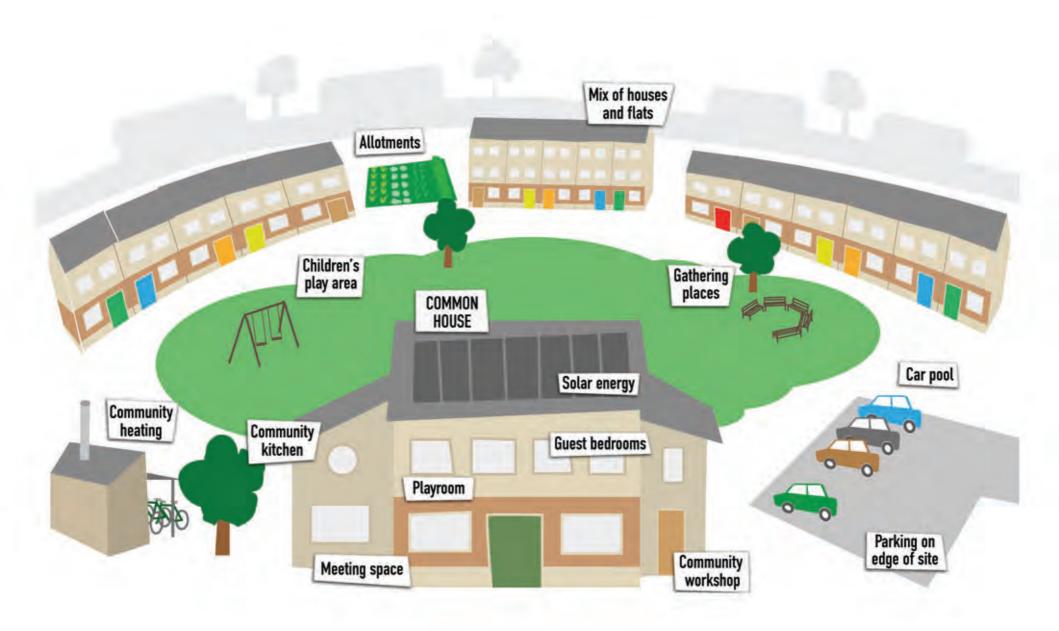
Joanna Moorhead

Sat 1 May 2010 00.10 BST





he late afternoon sun is casting a rich honey glow over a car-free street of timber-framed houses and a group of mothers are sitting on benches chatting, watching their children play on the adjacent green. From time to time a neighbour, en route home from work, walks by and stops for a chat; later, a bell will ring from the window of one of















































Sustainability

Recruitment Housing co-ops

Professional team

Values

Charettown cohousing

Financial model

Finding a site

Decision-making

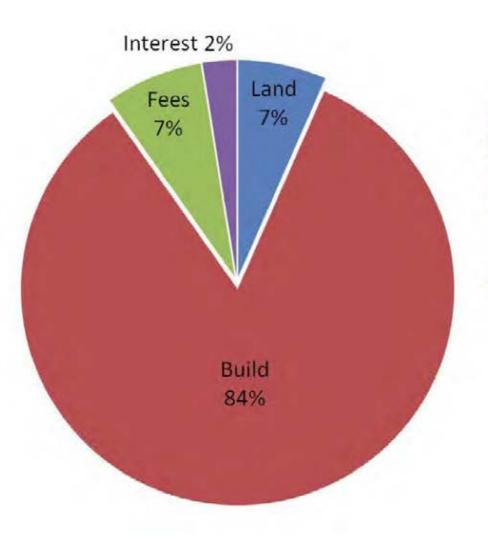
Chapeltown

Affordability

Diversity

Building community

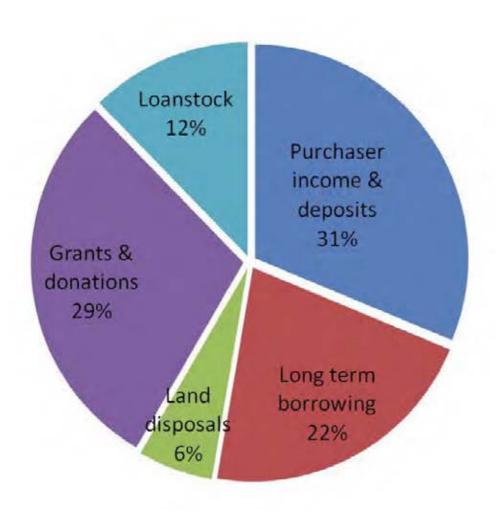
ChaCo Development Costs



Land acquisition cost £347,000
Build cost £4,424,000
Fees/ oncosts £384,000
Interest on finance £133,000

Total Costs = £5,288,000

ChaCo Income



Purchaser income & deposits £1,652,000
Long term borrowing £1,135,000
Land disposals to 3rd parties £301,000
Grants, donations & other £1,550,000
Loanstock £650,000

Total Income = £5,288,000

ChaCo's vision (recruitment leaflet version)

- A diverse and supportive community
- A place that brings together families and single people across generations
- Affordable, low-energy housing that residents help to design
- Plenty of green space, with room for playing, relaxing and food-growing
- Excellent shared facilities for the whole community
- A safe place for the kids to play
- Shared responsibility for community decisions
- Easy access to a bookable car-club vehicle.

Cohousing is a conscious attempt to find a better way of living – better for ourselves, our neighbours, our society and our planet. ChaCo members want to be part of a genuinely caring community, where neighbours are looking out for each other and enjoying doing things together.

ChaCo's values

Inclusive and open minded

Actively participating in the local community.

Sharing and supportive

Helping each other to create a great community, with common facilities like the common house, car- sharing, a laundry, guest rooms and food-growing space.

Personal and private

Each person/family has their own front door and private space but also benefits from shared space and resources.

Diverse

Wide range of people, of different ages, backgrounds and incomes etc. So we have to include affordable housing.

Environmentally friendly

Supporting and promoting sustainable living. Eco homes with low energy bills, designed with an eye on the future.

Empowering

Each member having an equal say in decisions and in the ownership of shared resources and facilities.