

# Halton Senior Cohousing Newsletter

## Spring 2020

It's not really news that this Spring is like no other we have experienced. We may recall rationing during WWII, we may have read about previous



flu epidemics, and there was a time most of us can recall, when we had time to talk to the neighbours over the fence and there was a lot less traffic. Who would have thought our lives would be changed so rapidly in this new decade. We hope you are all keeping well and safe.

Virtually empty roads in the middle of the day!

As expected, neighbours are keeping in touch, groups forming to support those in isolation, and technology is playing a big part in communication. I hope you are not too inundated with emails, as we do want to let you know how our plans are going.

### February Weekend

Going back to February 22nd-23rd, before Coronavirus hit, which seems a long time ago now, we held a weekend gathering to socialise and approve floor plans and earmark which homes members would choose. There was a lot of fun in brainstorming a name to be the address of the Project. We even went outside and stood in place representing where each corner of the buildings would be. The film "Aging Gratefully" was shown, an eye opener for some. Unfortunately with the restrictions now in place, we have had to postpone our plans for another weekend in April.



## **Ecology Report**

This made very interesting reading, listing the variety of flora and fauna to be found on the site. There was no evidence of bats but there were plenty of rabbit holes. It is also likely that birds use the existing scrub for breeding. Insects and weeds, grass and sedges complete the habitat. We



hope to maintain the wildness in a natural garden. The mature trees will be staying where they are.

## **Meetings by Zoom**

Our last face to face steering group meeting (at least for the present) was held just before restrictions were put in place. We will now be meeting by Zoom, something new for all of us oldies. Still you're never too old to learn. We discussed how we can recruit new members when social events are not possible. Social media, virtual events? Please share if you have any ideas.

## **Time to work**

We hope this will be a time for us to improve our web site and develop policies, but most of us seem to be busier than ever. Meanwhile our architect is consulting with structural engineers and Passivhaus engineers. Project manager, Chris, is creating a new timeline and aiming for May to submit final planning permission.

## Grant Funding

Once again we are grateful for receiving grant money from the Community Led Housing Fund. A big thank you to all in Lancaster City Council who have been so supportive.

## Membership

April 1<sup>st</sup>, is when we renew our membership. The form is below. Membership is for people who are quite serious about moving in some time in the future. You will have first choice at which unit you would like based on when you joined as a member. The minutes of steering group meetings and invitations to events and workshops will be sent to you. If you have any questions please get in touch with us at [haltonseniorcohousing@gmail.com](mailto:haltonseniorcohousing@gmail.com)



**Membership**

**Form**

## Halton Senior Cohousing

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact details \_\_\_\_\_ (Email, and mobile if you wish)

**Please state how you would prefer to be contacted. We will add your email to the member's list and you will be invited to events and receive minutes of the steering group. Your email will be kept on the contact list within the gmail account and will not be shared with anyone else without your permission. Your address will be kept on file in our member's book held by the secretary.**

**What type of unit are you interested in? Two bed house, two bed flat, one bed flat.**

**Please pay £25 into Halton Senior Cohousing at Cumberland Building Society**

**Sort code 16-52-21 Account 54250151 Reference with you surname please**

**The membership is renewed every year April 1<sup>st</sup>. New members who have joined in the last 3 months prior to April 1<sup>st</sup> will be covered until the following April 1<sup>st</sup>.**