

# Halton Senior Co-housing Project



## Welcome Spring 2021



## Good News! We Own the Land

Halton Senior Cohousing project has now completed the purchase of the land. It may seem odd that we received planning permission last December and are only now just buying the land. We held an option agreement whereby once we had planning permission, we would complete the purchase. A few hitches caused delays but we finally got all the loose ends tied up. So it is official. As it was one big piece of land, it had to be divided between the Community Land Trust and Halton Senior Cohousing. Our portion includes the row of protected trees (our nature reserve) and the land up to Forge Lane. At the moment, the whole site looks a bit wild. We

intend to enhance the habitat for birds and other wildlife with plants bearing fruits and flowers.



We are still waiting for Forge Lane to be adopted. Lancashire County Council came and made their inspections. They asked us to tidy up the overhanging bushes, which our valiant team of workers promptly sorted out. There is a little work to be done on the drains. All should be in order by June.



## **Affordable Housing**

We are still negotiating with Lancaster City Council as to the affordable housing criteria. We have earmarked the 2 affordable flats and 4 discount market value flats which make up our 30% affordable housing contract. All applicants must meet the council's requirements. The details are being finalised.

## **ZOOM Continues**

Covid restrictions continued to prevent face to face meetings. We have now all become pretty well adapted to socials, general meetings, and steering group all on zoom. Socials have frequently been held on a Friday evening. We celebrated with a virtual clink of glasses when the land sale went through, we answered a quiz on flowers, laughed at some very odd shaped vegetables from the community food growing project, and even tried an anonymous Menti survey for our entertainment.

We are looking forward to rescheduling the weekend workshop we had planned for last April. We hope that by July this will be possible.

## **Walks Have Resumed**

We met for a walk on the Halton to Lancaster cycle/walkway on the day it reopened, April 1<sup>st</sup>. There were two groups of six on a very pleasant sunny day. Newly planted trees and wildflower gardens are near the flood defences. In the little park by the aqueduct, the willow circle has sprouted new leaves.



## **Welcoming New Members**

There is interest from new people on a regular basis. We invite them to one of our zoom socials or general meetings so they can get to know us and we can get to know them. There is a Membership Pack we send digitally. 8 units are still available to purchase. If you are interested or know someone who is please contact us: [haltoseniorcohousing@gmail.com](mailto:haltoseniorcohousing@gmail.com) or

[enquirieshaltoseniorcohousing@gmail.com](mailto:enquirieshaltoseniorcohousing@gmail.com)

or check out our web site:

<https://www.haltoseniorcohousing.org.uk/>

## **New Homes for Birds**



The Community Land Trust offered new homes for the birds that usually nest on their site. Halton Senior Cohousing will not start developing until after nesting season.

### **Lancaster Quaker Meeting Eco Chat group**

A presentation was given to members of Lancaster Quaker Eco Chat group about Halton Senior Cohousing on April 12<sup>th</sup>. We were able to share some of the ways we will be sustainable. The talk mentioned the Passiv Haus standard and Lifetime Homes (Accessible and Adaptable) preparations. We explained how we will link in with the hydro and solar micro-grid which produces energy locally. Other sustainable measures will be the car club, the Common House with shared guest room and laundry, and plenty of bicycle storage. The group was interested in discussing the differences between multi-generational cohousing and senior cohousing.