



Hope Cohousing Newsletter

March 2025

Scottish Housing News podcast features Hope Cohousing

Cohousing is the focus of a Scottish Housing News podcast due out later in the month. It features Jenny Rambridge from Hope Cohousing and Tom Morton, Convener of Cohousing Scotland. The podcast will be downloadable from [Scottish Housing News](#).

Hope Cohousing in the news



This article in February raised interest in what we are up to. As Amelia Hill points out, cohousing is increasingly popular in England, where there are 31 communities, 65 projects in development. Why is it not flourishing in Scotland? [Click](#) to read the piece.

Integration Joint Board

We were pleased to be invited recently to talk to the IJB's Strategic Planning Group. The group was quick to appreciate what community-led cohousing schemes such as ours, add to the

health and well-being of communities. The IJB provides a large range of local health and social care services in Orkney.

Housing Emergency: Community Response

This event focusing on cohousing and community-led housing, took place in January in the Scottish Parliament. Hosted by [Ariane Burgess MSP](#), it was attended by around 40 people in-person (including half a dozen MSPs and – significantly – the Housing Minister) plus 60 or so online. Organised by the charity Cohousing Scotland, one of the key requests made was for the Scottish Government to honour its commitment to fund the building of pilot cohousing projects. As a shovel-ready project, Hope Cohousing has been put forward by Cohousing Scotland to be the first pilot project



Jenny Rambridge (Hope Cohousing) shares the stage with the Housing Minister Paul McLennan

In responding to the presentations, Paul McLennan MSP was clear that cohousing is not something he needs to be convinced of. It's what we do practically to bring it to fruition, he said. "How do we develop the policy framework?" he asked ... "because at the moment it's not embedded in Scotland and not embedded in local authorities."

Visits

We regularly get requests to visit us and discuss our experience of working to set up cohousing. Already there are a number booked from Easter

on. If you are interested in talking about the development and, perhaps, how it fits in with local and island life, email us or use the *contact us* section of the website.

Thanks to our local community

Last year, we supported the Scot Baby Box Appeal for blankets and warm clothes for children and young people in Ukraine. Thanks to all the local people who generously donated and to Northwards with their help with delivery.



Donations starting their journey to the Ukraine

Meet-ups

During the winter months we have been meeting each month in the Ben End at St Margaret's Kirk and we are very grateful to the Kirk for this and the work they have been doing to offer a warm space for local people to use.

Over the next few months we will be having meet-ups in Burray and in Stromness and Kirkwall. **Dates and times** will be advertised on our website and on Facebook. We would be pleased to see anyone who wants to come along.

Heating and design developments

The HCH homes were designed from the outset to be space efficient and low energy. A recent report from Grigor Mitchell Architect and Luths Building Services compares the heating requirements in different build specifications. Like many other community-led housing

initiatives, we have to balance affordability with our aspiration to maximise energy efficiency. There are some important decisions to be made.

Cohousing Scotland's Newsletter

For those interested in Scottish cohousing initiatives and changes in Scottish housing policies etc. this newsletter is a must. **The February issue** includes an interesting article on the Lenzie Senior Cohousing Project in East Dumbartonshire.

When a new edition comes out we list it on the frontpage of our site and include it in the news page. However, you can sign up to get the newsletter regularly - <https://cohousing.scot/> and click on 'contact'.

Services in Burray and South Ronaldsay

For some years we have had a page listing various services and things to see in St Margaret's Hope – and it is well-used. It has now extended to cover a wider range of services – and both Burray and the rest of South Ronaldsay. Take a look at the **updated page**.



February rainbow, St Margaret's Hope