



Hope Cohousing Newsletter

March 2026



Welcome to the Hope Cohousing newsletter for March – and to signs of spring appearing, here in the Marengo Community Garden, after a long, wet winter.

Hope Cohousing

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SSEN

The first two months of 2026 have been largely a period of waiting. With our partners, Community Housing Trust, we submitted a grant application to SSEN Transmission regional fund last November. In a strongly competitive field covering the whole of the north of Scotland and with submissions totalling £31m for grants of £2.7m, the CHT/HCH bid was unfortunately not successful. Details of the awards made are [here](#).

It is well publicised that there is a serious housing crisis in Scotland and the rest of the UK. Unfortunately, small innovative projects like ours are not seen as a priority in the current climate.

We have been posting information and articles about the housing crisis on our [website](#). If you would like to learn more, take a look at news items and more in-depth analysis.

What next for Hope Cohousing?

The SSEN news is disappointing especially since large grants for housing projects are increasingly few in the present unfavourable economic climate.

In the light of this setback for our plans, we have decided to pause the project as it stands. We are now going to take stock of the situation, to go right back to basics and to work out how the project might be re-configured and what our options are.

By the time we prepare the June newsletter we hope to have ideas and plans to share with you. We would welcome any suggestions you have to feed into this work. You can contact us by email or through the website.

Claire Broadhurst



Claire with Jenny at the HCH site

With great sadness we share the news of Claire Broadhurst's death last month.

Claire had a lifelong commitment to community work and housing, and to community-led projects. Changing circumstances that led her to plan to return to Orkney made Hope Cohousing a natural focus for her. She supported us and then became a Director of Hope Cohousing in 2024, bringing fresh ideas, energy and informed enthusiasm to our group. Her strong Quaker faith was the bedrock to her life.

We shall miss her very much.