



Hope Cohousing Newsletter

October 2026

*Welcome to the autumn issue of
the Hope Cohousing newsletter.*



As the gardeners grasp any dry September days to get the tidying and last grass cut achieved, we look back at a summer of mixed weather, though many of us were relieved that the extreme temperatures experienced by the rest of the country didn't reach this far north.

News

As we reported in the last newsletter, in February the Communities Housing Trust decided to withdraw from our partnership when their bid for a SSEN grant for our project was not successful. The HCH team has spent the last six months considering possible ways forward for the project. This has included re-examining all parameters and assumptions, identifying areas for construction cost cutting and looking at different reconfigurations of our original plans to identify which elements could be stumbling blocks to progress.

We have identified a few options that we will pursue. But if they lead nowhere, it seems probable that we will have to accept that the Hope Cohousing project cannot be taken any further forward at this time by our group.

Underlining this situation, you may have seen in recent national news reports that the Communities Housing Trust itself is withdrawing from all activities. [[Scottish Housing News 28/09/2026](#)]. Unless there is a change of fortune or a new player, this does not bode well for the future of community-led housing projects across the Highlands and Islands which the Trust has done so much to facilitate. The news highlights the difficulties facing rural housing initiatives.

On the other hand...

We are encouraged by:

- local and national supporters continuing to support and to ask about the project;
- local support for the idea of cohousing and its social and welfare benefits both to

residents and in terms of health and social care savings; and

- the success of cohousing in other UK nations and, more especially, in Europe.

Even though the Scottish Government's Programme for Government is emphasising prevention and acknowledgement of the huge black hole in the Health and Social Care budget, it seems times of economic crisis do not present the best environment for strategies of prevention.

We are now rooting for Lenzie Senior Cohousing to be the first cohousing project in Scotland that is successfully set up and established.

Based near Glasgow, this group is led by colleagues we met through the national organisation, Cohousing Scotland. Working with the Lenzie Community Development Trust, their current plans focus on the redevelopment of the derelict Campsie View school site for housing for older members of the community. They have shared their latest update with us.

Lenzie Senior Cohousing Update 28.9.26 - In the Thick of It!

Our Community Asset Transfer application for the school site was on 5th September rejected by the council on 7 detailed points and if we wish to request a review it has to be lodged by 2nd October. We are frantically working at pace to put together a response to each of the points raised. If the review does not go in our favour we can appeal to the Scottish Ministers. So, this is a busy week for us.

Over the past summer months, the monthly open meetings regrettably got sidelined.

HCH meet-up

Our next social meeting will be on Saturday 17th October, at 2pm, in the Polly Kettle, Burray. If you are in Orkney do come along. Everyone is welcome.



A reminder

The HCH website offers a useful source of information, news and in-depth articles about cohousing and about the housing crisis. [See below]

Hope Cohousing

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