

Community Led Housing stakeholder event publicity

Windsor & Maidenhead workshops

Press release: HOMES IN OUR COMMUNITY AND FOR OUR COMMUNITY

For immediate release

Are you concerned about housing in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead?
Struggling to find a home you can afford to live in? Priced out of the market?
Worried about how your children will house themselves in the local area?
Frustrated by a lack of quality housing that really meets the community's needs?

There will be two public meetings on community led housing to bring local residents together to tackle these issues and identify solutions that can be designed and led by local communities.

- Windsor on Wednesday 22 November - Dedworth Green Baptist Church
- Maidenhead on Tuesday 28 November - Methodist Church High St Maidenhead

[To sign up please visit our registration page](#)

The meeting is organised by local residents in conjunction with Ecomotive, a social enterprise specialising in community-led and self build housing which is working to support the development of one or more community-led housing groups within the borough.

Community-led housing is gaining in popularity and credibility as a real alternative to “conventional” forms of housing led by developers, councils or housing associations. It provides a route for ordinary people to create their own solutions, design homes that meet local needs, put land into community ownership and keep homes affordable for local people in the long term.

Examples of community-led housing include:

- Community Land Trusts - non-profit community-based organisations that own land and property for public benefit
- Housing co-operatives - where residents share equally in the ownership and management of homes.
- Cohousing - an intentional form of community with private homes clustered around a shared space.
- Self-help renovation - where community groups negotiate with the owners of empty properties and carry out repairs to make them habitable for local people.
- Self build - where this is done as a group project.

“Truly Affordable Housing in this area, with one of the highest rates of house prices to income in the country, is a huge concern for people. People are asking where will they and their children be able to afford to live? Everyone seems to be waking up to the scale of the national problem, and we have been

asking ourselves what we can do within our community. When Ecomotive approached us, we were happy to work with them to help to explore what can be done locally. We encourage local residents to attend this initial meeting to find out how we can work together to try to solve this problem ” Claire Milne, Co-Chair Windsor Neighbourhood Plan.

We believe that having a sense of community, social belongingness is a primary need for almost all human beings. It is as important as food and shelter! Sustainable, affordable, aesthetically pleasing housing is a need not a luxury. When half of Royal Borough working population commutes to London, the towns, neighbourhoods and villages are not able to meet some of its primary, specially social and community needs.

"Earthy Tones" are a local group of residents that feel strongly about the latent need for people to connect, cooperate, and live alongside providing mutual support. We believe that residents can address and deliver their own housing needs. In an era of scarce resources and housing shortage working locally, sustainably in a cooperative way can be far more effective than a centralised top down manner.

Sandra Orlando Payne / Rajiv Chelani, Earth Tones (Maidenhead cohousing group)

The first meeting will be held at **Dedworth Green Baptist Church** on Wednesday 22nd November. Doors open at 6:30 for a 7pm start and the meeting will close at 9pm.

A second event will be held in Maidenhead at High Street Methodist Church on Tuesday 28th November, at the same times.

Please visit www.rbwmclt.org for more details and to register for a free ticket for either of these events.

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Information for editors

1. For more information on community-led housing (CLH), see <http://www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk/news-and-events/community-led-housing-conference/what-is-community-led-housing>
2. Ecomotive is a social enterprise based in Bristol which specialises in providing support to community-led housing and self build groups as all stages of development. Ecomotive is currently working under contract to RBWM to explore what demand there is for CLH in the borough, to identify what is needed to support projects to happen and to assist a local group in developing a business plan for an initial CLH project. For more information on Ecomotive, please visit www.ecomotive.org.
3. The website for the RBWM community-led housing project run by Ecomotive is at www.rbwmclt.org.
4. Project Facebook page: www.facebook.com/EcomotiveRBWM/ and Twitter account: twitter.com/rbwmclt