

## Hook Norton Community Housing Project

At a time of climate emergency when many new housing developments lack sustainable measures, the people of Hook Norton have generated an innovative community - led project of affordable homes that will have a positive impact on the environment and be fit for the future.

Following the decision from Cherwell District Council to formally approve the transfer of ownership of the land for the project to Hook Norton Community Land Trust more milestones have been reached. The architectural design team at Charlie Luxton Design have recently completed and submitted a pre planning application in order to identify at an early stage any controversial or complex issues in the planning process. This additional step can help improve communication with all parties involved and prevent misunderstandings that could lead to future delays.

The homes will combine design and environmental merit and be built to Passivhaus standard, which by achieving a high level of air-tightness will ensure maximum comfort with low running costs and reduced carbon emissions. The houses are positioned on the site to make the most of renewable energy features like solar photo-voltaic panels, with the possibility of an extensive array on each roof.



Proposed scheme overview by Charlie Luxton Design.

Discussions have begun with the Low Carbon Hub in Oxford about developing a micro grid for the project which could provide a decentralised system of locally generated energy and allow the community to be more energy independent and environmentally friendly.

Hook Norton Community Housing project aims to be a replicable example of a carbon positive project and is also striving to have a carbon neutral construction process, by using local suppliers and installers and by establishing links with local colleges to provide construction apprenticeships where possible.

Once the pre-planning application advice has been received we will be returning to the community for further meetings and consultation to encapsulate ideas and ensure that the results reflect the needs of the community. We will be in contact with those who have already shown interest and will advertise the meetings through posters around the village and on Facebook. After a request in the last newsletter we are delighted to say that several interested people with a range of local knowledge and expertise indicated that they would like to contribute by joining the board of Hook Norton Community Land Trust to help guide the project through to the next phase.

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