

COMMUNITY-LED HOUSING WEBINAR SERIES | SESSION 3



An Ghníomhaireacht
Tithíochta
The Housing Agency

COMMUNITY-LED HOUSING FOR AGE-FRIENDLY LIVING



March 2025

WEBINAR



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WEBINAR SERIES COMMUNITY-LED HOUSING

1 INTRODUCING COMMUNITY-LED HOUSING

12th February 12 - 1pm

SPEAKERS:

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- **Tom O'Donnell** - Self Organised Architecture

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- **Ailbhe Cunningham** - Cork Community Land Trust
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- **Anne Connolly** - Cohousing Communities Ireland

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- **Hugh Brennan** - Ó Cualann Cohousing Alliance
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- **Haley Curran** - Cooperative Housing Ireland
- **Jim Baneham** - The Housing Agency



TODAY'S SPEAKERS



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MARIA BRENTON

Co-founder of New Ground
Cohousing, UK Cohousing
Network Senior Cohousing
Ambassador



ANNE CONNOLLY

Co-founder of Cohousing
Communities Ireland

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Senior Cohousing Ambassador

Age-Friendly Community-Led Housing

Maria Brenton
UK Cohousing Network
Senior Cohousing Ambassador

Cohousing is:

Participating in the design of your home

Living collaboratively with neighbours

Sharing...communal space, cars, meals, time, skills

Reducing loneliness

Respecting privacy

Staying active and engaged

Staying in charge of your own life



New Ground COHOUSING

A pioneering community for women









UK Cohousing
NETWORK









Dutch Policy & Practice in Relation to Ageing and Cohousing:

https://www.housinglin.org.uk/_assets/Resources/Housing/OtherOrganisation/ReviewofDutchPolicy-Final.pdf

Community Building for Old Age: Breaking New Ground

https://www.housinglin.org.uk/_assets/Resources/Housing/Practice_examples/Housing_LIN_case_studies/HLIN_CaseStudy-139_OWCH.pdf

‘Practical Guide to Cohousing’, 2022, Martin Field et al.

<https://cohousing.org.uk/>

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ANNE CONNOLLY



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ANNE CONNOLLY

Co-founder of
Cohousing
Communities Ireland

Cohousing Communities

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[What is Co-Housing?](#)

[Land Owners & Developers](#)

[Meet the Team](#)

[Contact Us](#)



Anne Connolly - Cohousing Communities Ireland

www.cohousingireland.ie / hello@cohousingireland.ie



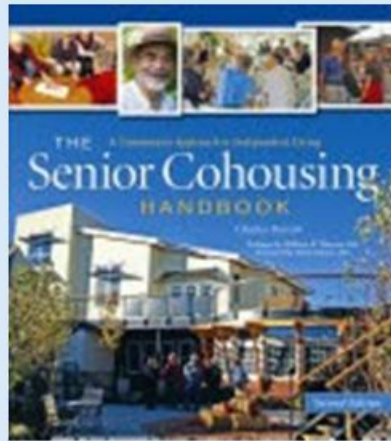
Cohousing Communities for people 55+

Not a new idea!!

MY JOURNEY



Canadian Cohousing
Network



Chuck Durrett Facilitator Course



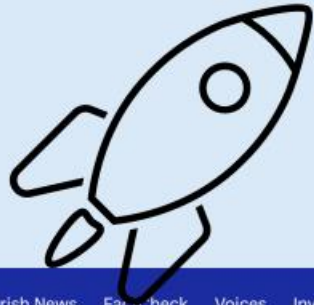
Oakcreek Community--Stillwater Oklahoma



Klokkeskoven, Denmark



Cannock Mill, Colchester



Launch 2nd March 2025

THE IRISH TIMES

Co-housing project for over 55s could 'free-up' thousands of family homes. Co-housing Communities Ireland aims to fill gap in housing market it says is faced by middle-aged, older people



Cannock Mill cohousing development. IMAGE: Cohousing



HOUSING SHORTAGE

Opinion

Cohousing developments could bring some relief in the housing crisis

With many Irish people living in houses too big for their needs, cohousing provides a transformative option for housing stock.

7.31am, 2 Mar 2025 14.3k



Co-housing is a new way of living in a community of like-minded people over 50 who wish to remain in their neighborhood and follow a more sustainable lifestyle. It meets the housing needs of the new middle-agers by creating an environmentally friendly urban development that is a 'blue zone' for the over-50s.





What do we mean by Cohousing Communities for people 50+



Cohousing communities for people aged 50+ are intentional living arrangements where older adults come together to live in a shared, supportive environment.

These communities are designed to foster social interaction, mutual support, and a sense of belonging while allowing for independent living.



The goal is to create a balance between private living spaces and communal areas where residents can share resources, activities, and responsibilities.

THE SIX CHARACTERISTICS OF COHOUSING

1. COLLABORATIVE

DEVELOPED, DESIGNED, AND ORGANIZED TOGETHER.

2. SOCIAL

A COMMUNITY OF 'GOOD' NEIGHBOURS - DESIGNED TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY INTERACTION.

3. HIGH QUALITY

HIGH QUALITY AND 'A' RATED FUTURE PROOFED HOMES

4. INDEPENDENT

HOMES INDIVIDUALLY OWNED.

5. SELF-MANAGED

FULLY OWNER MANAGED – NO HIERARCHY IN DECISION MAKING

6. SHARED SPACES

FACILITIES THAT ENHANCE AND SUPPORT DAILY LIFE.

Hope Cohousing Report

Why cohousing is good for people and communities – the evidence



Individuals

- ❖ Releasing capital – pension, family, other
- ❖ Social connection and engagement – mutual supports
- ❖ Quality, energy efficient and future-proofed home
- ❖ Independent living

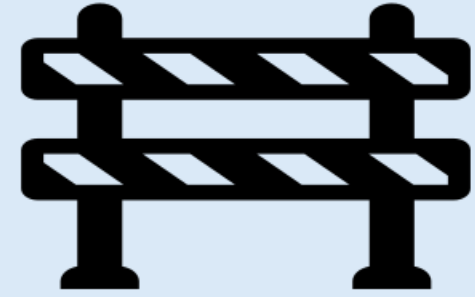


Societal

- ❖ Release larger homes into the market
- ❖ Community benefit
- ❖ Economic benefit
- ❖ Sustainable living



Key Barriers



Sites



Bridging finance





Making it happen

Cohousing Communities Ireland

The Team



Anne Connolly
Co-founder



Ana Dolan
Co-founder



Kevin McCormack
Advisor

Potential Buyers



What you can do

- ❖ Register your interest with us
- ❖ Canvass among friends – develop local group
- ❖ Identify suitable sites

What we can do

- ❖ Identify potential groups in an area
- ❖ Convene a meeting
- ❖ Facilitate group – from concept to turnkey
- ❖ Community Charter – the group decides
- ❖ Engage developers and ‘de-risk’
- ❖ Negotiate with financial institutions
- ❖ Work with site owners eg religious institutions, public bodies



Anne Connolly

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