

Housing Futures: Community-led alternatives for Greater Manchester Events in 2018

Housing Futures is organising a series of monthly events throughout 2018 on a range of community-led housing models. These events are aimed both at building a Greater Manchester network of people, groups and organisations interested in promoting community-led housing, but also in thinking through the potential and challenges associated with community-led housing. We are particularly interested in thinking through what it has to offer low-income neighbourhoods amidst a crisis in housing availability and affordability in certain areas. We hope that the partnership will lay the foundations for a new regional hub for support and advice on community-led housing in Greater Manchester. We would like to thank Manchester Urban Institute at the University of Manchester for their sponsorship of the Housing Futures events programme.

Date	Event Details
26 April 18 6 - 8.30pm	Greater Manchester housing co-operatives: past, present and future Co-operatives UK, Holyoake House, Hanover St, Manchester M60 0AS
21 June 18 6 - 8.30pm	Co-Housing: potential and challenges The Mechanics Institute (main hall), 103 Princess St, M1 6DD
19 July 18 6 - 8.30pm	Community Land Trusts: the What, Why and How Main Hall, Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount St, M2 5NS
20 Sept 18 6 - 8.30pm	Alternative Models of Ownership: risks and opportunities for the community-led housing movement Friends Meeting House (main hall), 6 Mount St, M2 5NS
1 Nov 18 6 - 8.30pm	Lessons from the Global South for community-led housing <i>Friends Meeting House (Upstairs Hall), 6 Mount St, M2 5NS</i> Register here: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lessons-from-the-global-south-for-community-led-housing-tickets-46357472448
8 Dec 18 1–4.30pm	Greater Manchester Community-led Housing Network Launch The Mechanics Institute (main hall), 103 Princess St, M1 6DD Register here: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/greater-manchester-community-led-housing-network-launch-tickets-48408173149

To be added to the Housing Futures mailing list, email gmhousingfutures@gmail.com with 'Subscribe' in the subject line.

For more information about **Housing Futures** please contact: Hannah Berry, Housing Futures Steering Group Chair, at gmhousingfutures@gmail.com.

For more information about the **Realising Just Cities** programme at the University of Sheffield please contact: Dr Sophie King, Realising Just Cities Research Fellow, at s.king@sheffield.ac.uk.

Housing Futures – Events in 2018

6 – 8.30pm, 26 April - Greater Manchester Housing Co-operatives: past, present and future

Speakers:

- Hannah Berry, [Homes for Change](#) and [Greater Manchester Housing Action](#)
- Stephen Naylor, [Co-operative Living Freehold Society](#) (CLFS)

Greater Manchester has a long history of co-operative housing. There is great diversity in the sector, from small fully mutual co-ops where all members live communally in one property to Registered Providers of multiple social rent homes. What are the advantages and disadvantages of these different models? What lessons from the past can help inform the present and the future? What support is available and what needs to be in place to support existing co-ops to expand and new co-ops to flourish? These questions will be engaged with by speakers and discussion followed by focused small group discussions for members of existing housing co-operatives.

6 – 8.30pm, 21 June – Cohousing: Potential and Challenges

Speakers:

- Bill Phelps – [Chapelton Cohousing](#), Leeds
- Maria Brenton – Senior Cohousing Ambassador, UK Cohousing Network and [Older Women's Cohousing Community](#) (OWCH), London

Cohousing initiatives are commonly understood as intentional communities created by a group of likeminded people seeking alternative ways of living together. It is relatively small scale in the UK yet existing cohousing initiatives demonstrate that cohousing has the potential to generate a wealth of positive social and sometimes economic outcomes also. Can cohousing contribute to a fairer or more inclusive housing landscape in Greater Manchester? What can we learn from existing experiments about the potential for cohousing in lower income areas of our city-region? This event will comprise a combination of speakers, Q&A, and highly participatory discussion with opportunities for networking.

6 – 8.30pm, Community Land Trusts: The What, Why and How

Speakers:

- Tom Moore, University of Liverpool (Evaluation of the [Urban Community Land Trust Project](#))
- Marianne Heaslip, [URBED](#), [Granby 4 Streets](#) and [Homebaked](#)
- Rebecca Winson, New Economics Foundation

A community land trust is an organisation established with the express purpose of acquiring and managing land for the social, economic, and environmental benefit of the local community. The CLT movement has grown out of rural roots in the UK but is increasingly becoming an urban phenomenon and has attracted much policy attention in relation to the potential for such initiatives to secure affordable housing in low income areas and catalyse neighbourhood revival. We will hear directly from well-known initiatives in Liverpool as well as from a recent evaluation of urban CLTs commissioned by the National CLT Network. The

event will be focused on exploring some of the challenges in both setting up and sustaining CLTs over time as well as the many benefits that may result and support that may be available.

6 – 8.30pm, 20 September - Alternative Models of Ownership: Risks and opportunities

Speakers:

- Rebecca Long Bailey MP (Salford and Eccles)
- Stephen Hill, National CLT Network and UK Cohousing Network
- Neil McInroy, Centre for Local Economic Strategies

What does Labour's [Alternative Models of Ownership](#) report and [new financing](#) from the current Conservative administration mean for the community-led housing movement? How far do these moves signify a cross-party moment of political opportunity or is recent rhetoric likely to result, in reality, in watered down versions of community ownership and governance? How can we ensure that new agendas for greater community leadership and control remain substantive and are provided with the necessary levels of investment and support infrastructure? And which of these alternative models are most likely to sustain themselves over time and have the potential for scaling up? Come along for an evening of speakers and debate.

6 – 8.30pm, 1 November - Lessons from the Global South for community-led housing

Speakers:

- Professor Diana Mitlin, [Global Development Institute](#) (GDI), University of Manchester and International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
- Activists from the [Kenyan Slum Dwellers Federation](#) Muungano Wa Wanavijiji

This penultimate session in the Housing Futures series is not to be missed for activists, urban development professionals and practitioners looking for a fresh lens through which to view the complex challenge of meeting a diversity of housing needs while ensuring housing policy and practice is shaped by communities themselves – including those living on low incomes. For the last 20 years, Diana has worked closely with [Shack/Slum Dwellers International](#), a trans-national network of homeless and landless people's federations and support NGOs; and with the [Asian Coalition for Housing Rights](#), a network of civil society groups focusing on urban poverty and exclusion. These collaborations have enabled her to learn from a range of models and approaches led by grassroots organisations in addressing housing injustice across cities of the Global South. In addition to leading the GDI, Diana Mitlin is also Principle Researcher for IIED and spent several years working as an Economist for the UK Government. With professional experience in the UK civil service, civil society, and academia, Diana has a cross-cutting perspective on the challenges of inclusive service delivery for diverse needs and particularly for low-income groups. Diana has been playing a listening role throughout the Housing Futures series. At this event, she will engage critically with the challenges, complexities, and possibilities that we have been discussing throughout the year from the perspective of experiences of community-led housing and government-civil society collaborations in cities across the Global South.

An emergent finding in the Housing Futures research process to date is that the phrase "community-led" is interpreted in many different ways and there is a lack of capacity and experience not just at community level but also at professional levels in terms of really understanding what a genuinely community-led process looks and feels like and how to facilitate

or support such processes. Together with Diana, activists from the Kenyan Slum Dwellers Federation will provide participants with a new perspective on these questions and illuminate the ways in which micro-level community-led processes have the potential to transform the range of options available at city and national levels. Muungano Wa Wanavijiji ('united slum dwellers' in Kiswahili) is a network of around 100,000 people in nearly 1000 groups, community-based organisations, organised groups, informal markets, squatters, and urban poor people from across Kenya. Together they seek to improve slums, and integrate them into the city fabric, working with partners in academia, government, and civil society, and working to influence national policy for urban development. Muungano believe that slum communities should be at the centre of city and national development. They are affiliated with [SDI](#), the biggest grassroots movement in the world.

1 – 4.30pm, Saturday 8 December - GM Community-Led Housing Network and Hub Launch

Speakers:

- Paul Dennett, City Mayor of Salford and lead for GMCA's housing strategy review
- Other speakers and workshops soon to be confirmed

Since November 2017, Greater Manchester Housing Action through the Housing Futures partnership have been reaching out to a wide variety of individuals, groups and organisations across Greater Manchester and nationally since November 2017, to identify needs and opportunities for the community-led housing movement in our city-region and to build a strong CLH network. GMHA is now actively working in partnership with a consortium of organisations to establish a new Greater Manchester Support Hub for the sector which will be launched at this event along with the Housing Futures findings and recommendations. City Mayor Paul Dennett who has been leading the combined authority's Housing Strategy Review throughout 2018 and has engaged positively with the Housing Futures initiative since its inception, will be our keynote speaker and will be discussing how the Combined Authority is engaging with the Housing Futures findings and recommendations. This half-day event will bring together experienced practitioners, infrastructure agencies and networks, interested stakeholders such as Housing Associations and Local Authority representatives, and most importantly people living and working across the community-led housing sector, to consolidate the Greater Manchester CLH Network. The event will include networking fora, speakers, information sessions and stalls, and action-planning sessions focused on next steps. See you there!