

DORSET COHOUSING COMMUNITY

Cole Street Farm, Cole Street Lane, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 5JQ

NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2005

Many of you will know that we have been happily resident at Cole Street Farm since November. The property is an old 6-bedroomed farmhouse, with seven holiday cottages and two barns for conversion.

We are looking for people to join us and can offer some Phase 1 accommodation now. Plans are being drawn up for conversion of the outbuildings so we are also becoming clearer about what can be offered to potential Phase 2 residents.

Phase 1

We have some short-term rented spaces available, both cottages and rooms in the main house: this is an ideal way for potential long-term members to come and experience living with us.

Phase 2

We are keen to talk to potential Phase 2 residents immediately as we are starting to design the barn conversions and will need to decide what size of units to include in our planning application. If you are seriously interested in becoming a phase 2 member, the sooner you visit the better. The first suggested dates are **Friday 21 January / Saturday 22 January**. Other dates can be arranged. We can provide you with a briefing document about the vision and intended facilities here.

Potential residents

Potential residents are asked to fill in a questionnaire, and to come and visit us so we can get to know each other before commitments are made. We are trying to have a balanced age and gender mix, so are keen to recruit men, couples, and people under 50. We would like to attract people with practical skills which can benefit the project. Please ask for the current project outline and questionnaire.

Activities at Cole Street Farm

B&B

We plan to offer eco-tourism at Cole Street Farm. We already have rooms available for bed and breakfast, and welcome visitors interested in what

we are doing. There are sometimes self-contained units available for short term holiday lets

Shared spiritual activities

We also offer opportunities for shared spiritual activities, including dancing and meditation. We already have a small group room, and a larger space will be included in the conversion

Courses

We are planning a timetable of courses on topics related to co-housing, healthy living etc. If you would like to contribute, do contact us.

We are hoping to organise regular evenings for Taize, Circle Dance and Dances of Universal Peace and Meditation classes. If you live locally and would like to be kept informed do let us know.

Healing and therapies

We have space for healing and complementary therapies and therapists on site.

Wednesday evening bring and share meal

Every Wednesday we have a shared meal and welcome guests.

If you would like to join us, please telephone beforehand, so we set you a place.

Work weekends and weeks

We hold regular working weekends, when volunteers can come and stay and join us in helping with decorating, gardening and other work. The next one will be Easter week, including the two weekends at either end, ie from **26 March to 3 April**. You will be welcome for all or part of this time.

Office spaces

After the conversion we will have work spaces for rental and would be pleased to talk to potential users of the space.

Other ways to get involved

We would welcome offers of help with any aspect of the project, such as design, building, education, market gardening. We are also grateful for offers of help with loan finance.

For further details of any of our activities, please contact Caroline Sharman or Gay Ellis at 01747 821929 or e-mail sharmancaroline@hotmail.com