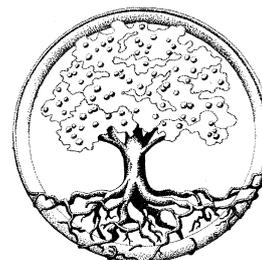


## COLE STREET FARM COHOUSING COMMUNITY

***THE THRESHOLD CENTRE***  
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### NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2007

Just to remind you, first of all, about the  
OPEN AFTERNOON on SUNDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER from 2-5PM

A chance for some of you to visit us again and for others to come for the first time. There will be up-to-date information about where we are with the building plans, the planning situation, about our courses and events, and about Cohousing in general. An opportunity to look around and have questions answered. Do come if you can.

Tea and cake available.

This event is part of our volunteer GARDENING WEEKEND 22-23 September so, if any of you would like to help in this way, do get in touch soon for details.

#### COHOUSING COURSES

These weekend workshops continue to be very popular and are designed to help with the practical aspects of setting up a cohousing project, whether you are just starting or in the perplexing thick of it. It is really encouraging for us to have enthusiastic visitors and to realise the extent of interest in this way of life, which offers so many benefits, both socially and environmentally.

Next one is from 16-18<sup>th</sup> November

#### PLANNING

Our revised application will be submitted soon. Changes have been made to the original to provide more social housing, which is a priority need in this district. We have joined forces with East Dorset Housing Association and the proposed conversion of the barns will provide homes of zero-emissions standard.

We held an exploratory Open Afternoon for those from the Housing Register who had expressed interest in being here. We are able to have some part in the selection process to ensure newcomers share in our ethos and are happy to give some time to the work involved in running the Centre. The changes mean that there will be no new group space. However, we have some inventive ideas for increasing the available space in the house, so our Cohousing and other events can continue. As before, the revised application has involved a lot of hard work, most of it in-house, and we are grateful to Alan and Amanda in particular for all they have done.

#### LETTERS OF SUPPORT

If you would consider writing a letter in support of our application, this would help us a lot: do get in touch and we can brief you about this.

#### QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

Thanks to all of you (around 70) who took the trouble to reply to our questionnaire about your level of interest in Cohousing. It's nice to know so many of you would like to live here if a unit were available! Good also to know of those who have plans to start a project with others, to live in this sustainable, supportive way. The information will be used to help strengthen our case in the planning application.

#### MARKET GARDEN

The new beds in our existing area have yielded well, thanks to Peter for all his efforts, and we are hopeful that our plans to acquire further land for organic vegetable growing will come to fruition very shortly. We intend to include an educational aspect here too.

PUBLICITY

We continue to get good coverage in the national and local press. Some of you may have seen the recent article in Saga magazine, and we have a journalist from the Observer visiting shortly. Amanda is taking part in a programme on Radio Solent on Sunday afternoons, 12-2. Not quite 'The Archers' but a monthly update on the Threshold Centre and Cohousing!

We will send another Newsletter before long with news on our planning application. Also to include our programme of events for 2008. Meanwhile, we look forward to welcoming you here on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

Best wishes from us all,

Alan, Amanda and Peter (and Monty!), Caroline, Gay, Jane, Michael, Nancy and Vita.