

HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES RESEARCH NETWORK

Hope for Housing – the rebirth of Community-Led Housing

**BIRMINGHAM AND WEST MIDLANDS RESEARCH CONFERENCE -
July 9 2018**



Nicholson Building, University of Birmingham

Following the announcements of a Community Housing Fund in December 2016, and November 2017 we are anticipating an acceleration of activity in the community housing space, with new regional hubs already established in Leeds, Bristol, London and East Midlands (adding to existing umbrella organisations). There is great interest in enabling and influencing here in Birmingham and the West Midlands; with our rich heritage of co-operative and resident controlled housing and strong current interest in community-led housing.

Community-led housing has been a key research topic for Housing and Communities Research Group for a number of years, and David Mullins recently edited (with Dr Tom Moore) a Special Issue of the International Journal of Housing Policy, March 2018 on 'self-organised and civil society participation in housing' with academic analysis of developments in ten countries. This event also draws on research led by Dr Richard Lang's recent Marie Curie Fellowship with Housing and Communities Research Group on 'Co-operative capital' and consults on findings from that research comparing collaborative housing developments in England and Austria. We have also undertaken high impact research on self-help housing before and after the Empty Homes Community Grants Programme, the Urban Community Land Trust programme, tenant involvement in social housing governance, resident management organisations in older people's housing and community-led initiatives in the private rented sector.

This event will engage with activists, practitioners, policy makers and academics to promote community-led housing in Birmingham and the West Midlands. We are seeking the participation of community-led housing projects including start-ups, existing community anchor organisations and well established housing co-operatives, Tenant Management Organisations, enabling bodies such as local authorities, housing associations, legal and financial advisers and architects across the region and will be inviting national and international experts from policy, research and practice.

The conference aims to connect international academic research, local community activism and policy debates and support community-led housing in Birmingham and the West Midlands. Some key questions to be explored include:

- **What are the key messages from international research on collaborative housing?**
- **How will the Community Housing Fund change things in England?**
- **How can we collaborate to achieve long-term impacts in Birmingham and the West Midlands?**
- **What makes community housing different? -balancing collaboration and empowerment for community benefit**
- **Is it all about new groups building new homes? – what is the role of refurbishing existing homes and expanding the role of existing community anchor organisations?**
- **Can community-led housing offer fresh options for private renters and social tenants?**
- **How can community-led housing address housing supply, housing need and affordability?**
- **Hope for Housing- how can we make things happen here and now?**

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

OPENING PLENARY

10.00 **Welcome and Purpose.** David Mullins

10.10 **The National Policy Agenda.** Isobel Wade (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government), Tom Chance (National Community Land Trust Network), Matt Dodd (Homes England)

10.40 **The Regional Picture.** Afzal Hussain (Witton Lodge) and Peter Richmond (Birmingham Community-led Housing Partnership)

11.00 **An International View.** Richard Lang (Universities of Birmingham and Linz and Ernst Gruber (Austrian Collaborative Housing Umbrella)

11.20 BREAK

11.30 BREAK OUT SESSIONS

1. **Making CLH a reality in Birmingham** – progress with Birmingham Community-led Housing Partnership – (Afzal Hussain, Carl Taylor, Peter Richmond, Guy Chaundy, Meena Bharadwa, Ifor Jones, Kate Foley)

2. **Getting below the surface of the international research** – Two special issues (International Journal of Housing Policy, Housing Theory and Society) – what do they tell us? - key concepts and learning points from 10 countries – (Tom Moore, David Mullins, Richard Lang, Melissa Fernandez, Jasmine Palmer).

3. **Regional show case** – a ‘pop up space’ for new groups and existing projects in the west midlands to share learning and network. Invite activists to present short reflections on their projects, vision, barriers and enablers and what they want to see from a regional hub. (Lauren Fridlington, Sophie Hall, Andy Reeve, Karen Cheney facilitators).

1.00 Networking lunch

1.30- 2.15 LUNCH TIME PLENARY PANEL

What research do activists and policy makers in the community-led housing space need? – Chairs Rose Seagrief (Power to Change) and Stephen Hill (Co-Housing Network)

Matt Dodd (Homes England), Nigel Kersey (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government), Guy Chaundy (Birmingham City Council), Charlie Fisher (Oxfordshire CLT and PhD researcher), Tom Archer (Sheffield Hallam University), Jasmine Palmer (University of South Australia), Melissa Fernandez (Lancaster University)

2.15 BREAK OUT SESSIONS

1. **Co-operative Capital** – Collaborative Housing in Austria and England - Consultation on Key Findings: (Richard Lang and David Mullins. Austrian visitors and participants from our research in West Midlands and nationally).

2. **What about existing housing?** - why refurbishment and management of privately owned homes can be a key tool for community-led housing –explore the best use of existing stock, regeneration and training and social lettings projects. (Jon Fitzmaurice and Cheryl Dockery (Stockland Green) Rachel Chiu (Spring Housing) & invited West Midlands projects).

3 Research show case – a ‘pop up space’ for researchers on community-led housing in UK or internationally to share learning and network. Invite PhD and other researcher to present short reflections on their work and its relevance to activism and policy (Tom Moore, Bingzi He, Melissa Fernandez and Tom Archer facilitators)

3.45 BREAK

4.00 FINAL PLENARY – MAKING IT HAPPEN HERE AND NOW – Chair Jon Fitzmaurice

4.00 Making things happen across the city region – learning from Leeds– Steve Hoey, Leeds Community Homes

4.15 Building from the grassroots - Community Anchor Organisations – Helen Williams, Locality

4.30 Learning from Urban CLTs and from partnerships with housing associations– Tom Moore, Sheffield University

4.45 Building effective alliances and infrastructure Blase Lambert, Confederation of Co-operative Housing

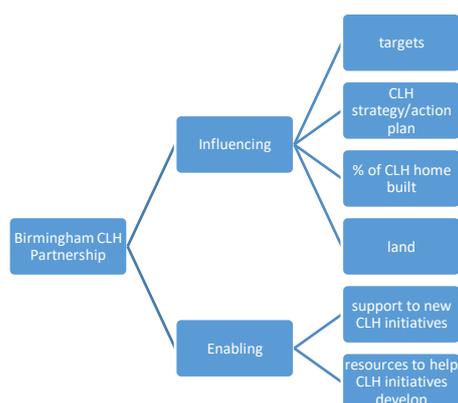
5.00 What local authorities can do – Acting on the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network Commission’s Report into Community-led housing Cllr Griffiths, Birmingham City Council

5.15 Summing up the Day – David Mullins

5.30 CLOSE

CONFERENCE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Afzal Hussain, Bingzi He, David Mullins, Jon Fitzmaurice, Helen Harris, Nic Bliss, Richard Lang, Sophie Hall, Tom Moore



Housing and Communities Research Network

with Birmingham Community-Led Housing Partnership

with support from Economic and Social Research Council Impact Acceleration Fund, Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowship and APART Fellowship of Austrian Academy of Sciences

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BOOKING FORM

If you would like to come to this exciting and free event please complete the form below and return to Helen Harris h.m.a.harris@bham.ac.uk

Places are limited to 100 and we expect demand to be high. At the beginning of June Helen will confirm places based on date of application, main reason for attendance and our target mix of:

1. Invited speakers (30)
2. Local community groups (15-20 places)
3. Birmingham City Council and other key Birmingham stakeholders (10-15 places)
4. Other West Midlands activists, LAs, housing associations and stakeholders (10-15 places)
5. Researchers, to include up to 12 PhDs (20 places)
6. National CLH activists and stakeholders (up to 20 depending on availability)

YES I would like to come to Hope for Housing, the Community-led housing research conference at Birmingham University on July 9th 2018

NAME	
ORGANISATION	
WHICH OF THE ABOVE TARGET GROUPS BEST DESCRIBE YOU?	
WHAT IS YOUR MAIN REASON FOR WISHING TO ATTEND?	
WILL YOU REQUIRE LUNCH?	
DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS?	
I WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND UNLESS A PARKING SPACE WERE AVAILABLE *	

* The venue is an eight minute walk from University railway station with good links to Birmingham New Street and the national rail system. Parking at the University will be very limited as this is the graduation ceremony period. If you would need a parking place in order to attend please tick the box above

DATE OF APPLICATION	
SIGNATURE	

Each person wishing to attend must complete an individual application