



HOOK NORTON

COMMUNITY

HOUSING PROJECT

Hook Norton Community Housing project took a significant step forward recently when Charlie Luxton Design presented three exciting site proposals to a full Hook Norton Low Carbon Open Meeting at Hooky Brewery on 26th February.

The three designs were exhibited and Charlie talked through the journey from listening to the needs of the community at the recent consultation workshops through to translating those ideas into a sustainable group of homes that will be affordable and adapt to future changes. Many from the community who took part in the earlier meetings were present and keen to see the results.

There was strong interest in all areas of the designs with each table discussing aspects of the presentation before drawing up a list of questions, ensuring that everyone had the chance to air their views. All of the questions were thoughtful and perceptive and potential issues were openly raised and discussed without conflict.

[Photo of meeting here](#)

It was fascinating to hear that the concept behind the proposals was inspired by Hook Norton Brewery which has adapted and changed its buildings according to need for 150 years. This influenced Charlie Luxton Design to develop a Flexible Homes Concept for the community project where individual dwellings can share a layout but the interiors can be easily adapted over time to evolve with the changing needs of the residents.

Each of the three proposals offered a different configuration and layout of homes depending on differing sizes of land available but the communal facilities and shared growing spaces that will encourage neighbourly contact were at the heart of each plan. There were exciting suggestions for the communal meeting space such as a Community Café and work hub with gallery space for exhibitions. Having renewable energy features built into the homes

from the start will ensure they have low running costs and will reduce their impact on the environment. As Charlie Luxton Design put it, ***“Architecture and sustainability are intertwined and interdependent and must be considered as a single issue not an afterthought”***

[Image of proposal here](#)

The land for the project is owned by Cherwell District Council and we have been working with their housing strategy team to contribute to an extensive report showing the feasibility, technical requirements and social value of the project. This will be used by their senior executives to reach a decision in April on the terms of the transfer of the land to a newly formed Community Land Trust who will carry the project to completion.

The design proposals can be viewed on the Hook Norton Low Carbon web site <https://www.hn-lc.org.uk/what-were-doing/community-housing>

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