

Policy on How to Become a member of Bridport Cohousing
December 2016

The aim of this Policy: is to have a clearly-described and transparent process by which people become Members of Bridport Cohousing (BC).

Step one

People who are interested in Bridport Cohousing contact the group initially by:-

- Website: via the enquiry form on the contact page www.bridportcohousing.org.uk or
- Email: info@bridportcohousing.org.uk or
- Phone: 07907 993 587, giving their email address.

Bridport Cohousing: the membership team responds by email with a range of documents giving initial information about the project, and how to become a Member.

Step two

The enquirer: tells us they are very interested and would like more information.

Bridport Cohousing: responds with a second mailing with -

- further information about the project
- a copy of the Personal Information Form, which is our membership application form; (see below for a sample copy for information only).

The enquirer: attends at least two, preferably more, BC open meeting and events in order to meet other Members of the group and to demonstrate commitment and willingness to spend time with other members on the project.

Step three

The enquirer: sends a completed Personal Information Form (PIF)

Bridport Cohousing: sends the PIF out to all current members by email for comment, to establish that sufficient Members have met the potential new Member, to ascertain their aptitude for the cohousing lifestyle. In the event of insufficient members having met the enquirer BC will arrange an event where several Members can spend time with the enquirer.

When there are no concerns from Members an informal meeting is arranged between two Members and the potential new Member, to confirm that the potential new Member is clear about the benefits and obligations of Membership of the project before signing a written commitment to this effect.

NB Possible limits to the number of Members

During the early phases of the project, there will be no limit set on the number of potential residents accepted for membership, providing they meet the Membership criteria. Members are warned that acceptance into Membership of BC does not guarantee being allocated a home.

The reason for keeping membership unrestricted at this stage is to give as many people as possible the opportunity to explore actively whether the project will suit them or not. Experience within BC and other projects has shown that there is a significant natural turnover of people during these earlier stages.

During later phases Bridport Cohousing will only take deposits equal to the number of homes that will be available, and invite other members to join a waiting list.

Bridport Cohousing CLT

Personal Information Form (PIF)

This form is for information only and will be sent to you for completion later - please follow the previous steps first when applying

This form is for those wishing to become members of Bridport Cohousing. Please answer the questions as fully as possible. We ask each adult to fill in a separate form.

We are currently working on allocations – we cannot guarantee that all members will be allocated a home, but priority will be given to people who have been involved in making the project happen.

Today's date:

Your name:

Phone number:

Email: (to be an active member you will need to have access to email)

Home address:

Your age:

Date of Birth:

Your current housing status (e.g. owner occupier, private rent, social renting, shared ownership):

Are you on the housing register? (If you want to rent a BC home you will need to be registered with West Dorset District Council on Dorset Home Choice www.dorsethomechoice.org to be eligible)

If you are not living in West Dorset, do you have any local links, e.g. do you work in West Dorset or have family members living in West Dorset?

Are you able to spend time in Bridport at meetings and getting to know other cohousing members?

We ask you to come to some open cohousing events to get to know as many of us as possible before you join. Which events/meetings have you attended?

Who is likely to be living with you? Eg. Partner, friend(s), children.

Names, gender and d.o.b. of children:

Please indicate size of cohousing unit you are interested in:

1 bedroom flat

Ideal Size:

Minimum Size:

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 bedroom house | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 bedroom house | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 bedroom house | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please indicate the type of tenure you are interested in:

Owner occupier leasehold (you own 80% BC retains 20%)

With a mortgage? Yes/No

Housing Association rental Shared Ownership if available

Private rental (if available):

Your occupation:

Do you have any qualifications?

What skills can you offer (eg. building, gardening, financial, administrative, organisational, legal, etc)?

Which particular aspects of the project would you like to get involved with?

Meetings take place in or near Bridport, mostly daytimes, sometimes evenings – as arranged by the members. Is this possible for you?

How much time can you commit to the project each month?

Please say briefly what attracts you and inspires you about living in this community.

Is there any other information you feel it would be valuable to share with us?

Many Thanks.

Please return this by email to: info@bridportcohousing.org.uk

DATA PROTECTION: By completing this form, you consent to us storing your details on our database. The details will only be seen by other project members and will not be shared with any third parties. If you wish us to remove your details at any time, from our records, please inform us by email.