

**How to become an active member
of Bridport Cohousing**

December 2016 (amended May 2021)

The aim of this policy: to have a clearly described and transparent process by which people become active 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
- email, to info@bridportcohousing.org.uk
- phone (07907 993 587), giving their email address.
- marketing site contact form

Bridport Cohousing membership team responds by email, giving initial information about the project and how to become a member, and sending two forms:

1. The introduction and membership joining information form
2. Personal Information Form (PIF), which is our membership application form

Step Two

- The enquirer (including each adult member of a potential household) then attends at least four 'Meet the neighbours' meetings (on Zoom or in person) plus 2-3 face to face meetings with one or more members. (This is a temporary arrangement to be reviewed.)

The meetings and events are for Potential New Members (PNMs) to meet members of Bridport Cohousing and to demonstrate commitment and willingness to spend time with other members on the project.

- Children and young adults who will be living in the household should come to at least one event.

Step Three

- The enquirer (including all potential adult members of the household) sends a completed PIF after completing the above steps. The household will at this time also be invited to attend a shared meal at our monthly Members Circle before signing up.
- The Membership subcircle sends the PIF(s) of each adult member of the household out to all current members by email for feedback in line with listed BC listed criteria.
- A joining interview is arranged.

Step Four

- The joining interview requires the presence of all adults (including adult children aged 18 or above) who are going to live in the household, the sign-up secretary, and the PNM buddy.
- There will be a discussion about the implications and commitments of membership and a chance for PNM(s) to ask questions. This works towards confirming that the PNM(s) are clear about the benefits and obligations of membership of the project before signing a written commitment to this effect.
- Members will be asked to sign the agreement, pay their joining fee of £35 (£10 of which buys shares in Bridport Cohousing Ltd), as well as to set up a monthly standing order for their membership fee.
- The member is allocated a buddy for the first three months after joining.

N.B. Membership does not guarantee allocation of a home.