

# International **INTENTIONAL COMMUNITIES DAY**

## Saturday 21 May 2011

### What is an intentional community?

Intentional communities usually suggest a shared religious, political, environmental or social ideology. Cohousing is a form of intentional community but focuses on the desire to have a strong sense of community with your neighbours rather than on sharing any other set of beliefs/ideology or values.

Cohousing is a way of living which brings individuals and families together in groups to share common aims and activities while also enjoying their own self-contained accommodation and personal space.

The main features of cohousing are:

- They are set up and run by their members for mutual benefit
- Members are consciously committed to living as a community
- Developments are designed to encourage social contact and a sense of neighbourhood among members.
- Common space facilitates shared activities like community meals and other amenities like laundries, heating systems, guest rooms, transport, etc may be shared

### How is it different from cohousing?



Children thrive in cohousing

### Springhill Cohousing



### Why an International Day?

The idea started in the Netherlands in 2009. We want community living to be more commonly known by marking it annually. It's set for the third Saturday in May when gardens are at their most beautiful, the weather is often nice and the community can be experienced by others at its most active and vital. In 2011 the UK and Belgium will join in and, no doubt, others. We will build on the event in subsequent years with the aim of showing more people that there are alternative ways of living that work.

## Alternative ways of living?

Intentional Communities are not going to address the dire need for housing in the UK but they have a role to play in promoting community solutions. Specifically cohousing communities are a means of compensating for the alienating effects of modern life where neighbours don't recognise each other and where day-to-day collaboration is minimal.

## We need your help to get this recognition going

The Community Project



*Media - TV, radio, press, internet, PR - Directors of the Network are on hand for interviews*

*Housing Professionals - Please can you circulate this poster to relevant colleagues and groups? Or ask us to write a piece targeted at a specific audience.*

*Cohousing groups, both established and developing - Please can you arrange an open day, open meeting or local publicity to show and celebrate your intentions and achievements. In line with Belgium and the Netherlands we are asking groups to open their doors and/or share their ideas between 13:00 and 16:00. And please let us know what you're doing.*

*Local Authorities - Have you got cohousing in your housing strategies? We are working with LAs, HAs and communities (in developing their community plans) to facilitate the development of intentional communities. We would like to hear from you.*

*Communities - With changes to planning there is greater opportunity for you to influence the kind of housing options that meet needs and aspirations of people in your neighbourhood. Cohousing can work (though it's hard work) for all ages, groupings, tenures and interests. Posting this notice will help spread the word as will a look at our website to get a better feel for it all.*

## What the UK Cohousing Network will do

- Send out press releases
- Post your intentions on our website
- Be on hand for interviews & info

Contact: [office@cohousing.org.uk](mailto:office@cohousing.org.uk)

Media contacts: 07903 168891

[www.cohousing.org.uk](http://www.cohousing.org.uk)



Older Women's Cohousing

**the UK COHOUSING NETWORK**

[www.cohousing.org.uk](http://www.cohousing.org.uk)

**UKCN**

[office@cohousing.org.uk](mailto:office@cohousing.org.uk)