

COHOUSING: SHARED FUTURES

Parliamentary launch

Boothroyd Room, Portcullis House
Wednesday, 22 June 2016
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.



THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■

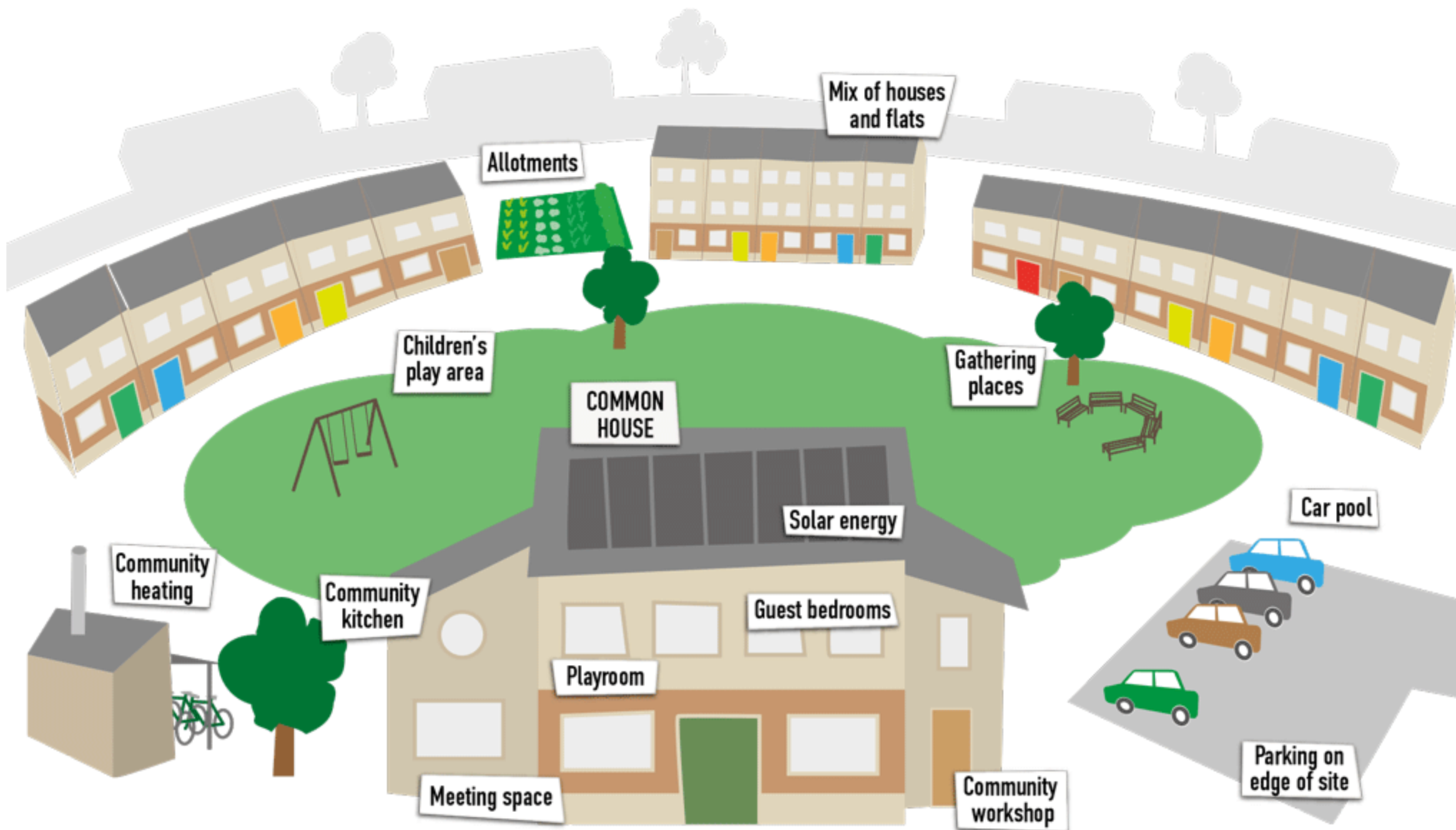


The University of
Nottingham



The
University
Of
Sheffield.





The context

- We are not producing *enough* new housing, especially in southern England
- We are not producing the *kinds* of housing that foster genuine community and enable people to live sustainably
- Does cohousing offer a real alternative?

Cohousing: what is it?

- Intentional communities
- private dwellings for each household
- collectively used spaces and facilities (often a common house)
- non-hierarchical structures
- usually designed, planned and managed by residents.

Recognised benefits

uses less energy than
other housing



Recognised benefits

A more affordable cost of living



Recognised benefits

Greater social and physical resilience



The recognised benefits

enhanced sense of place

increased self-awareness

compassionate caring and shared
community knowledge.



Our seminars

6 one-day seminars
looking at:

- *what works*
- *the barriers to wider adoption*
- *remaining questions*

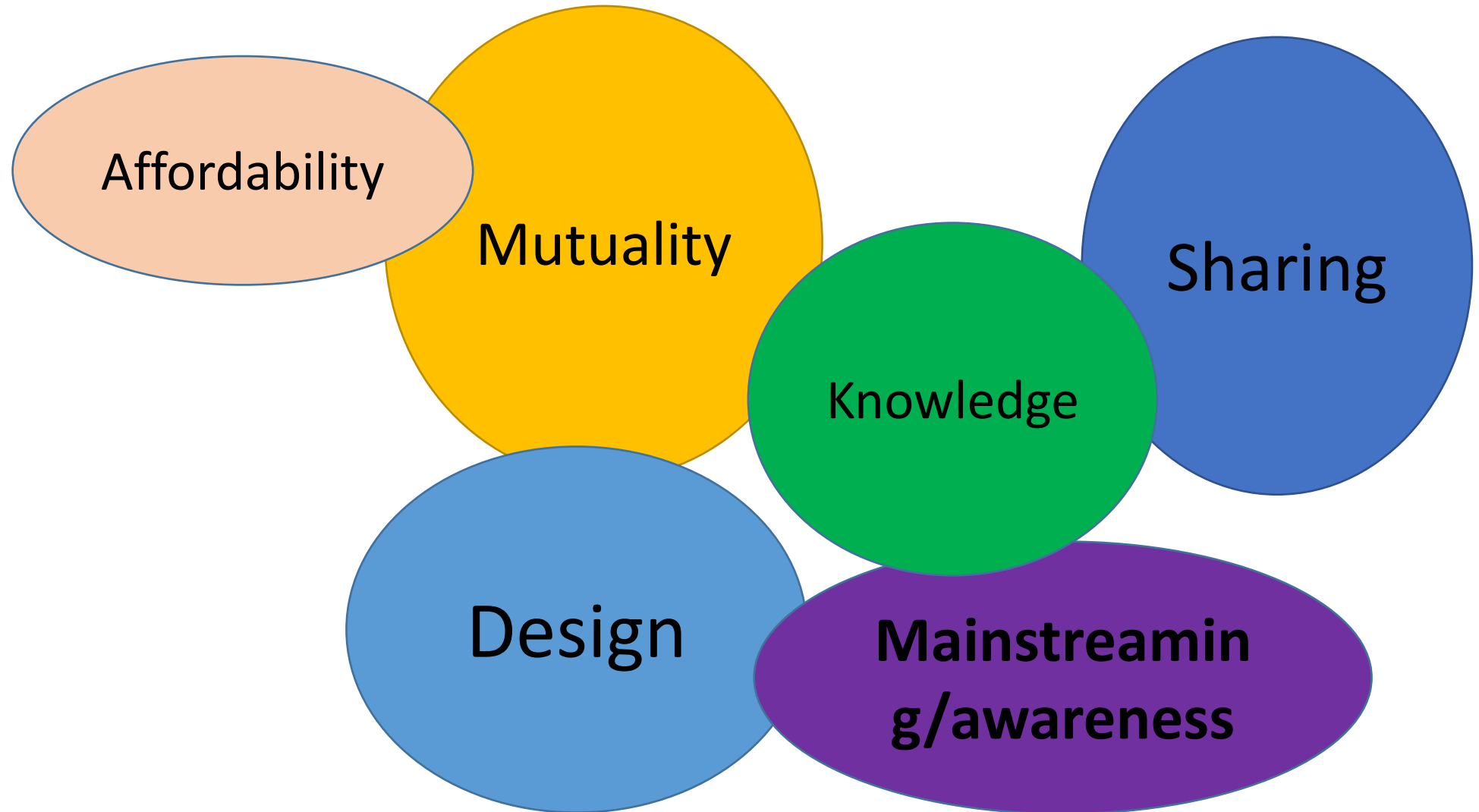


Our seminars

Joint working with
practitioners



Themes



UK examples



Shirle Hill, Sheffield



UK examples



Fireside, Sheffield



UK examples



LILAC, Leeds



UK examples

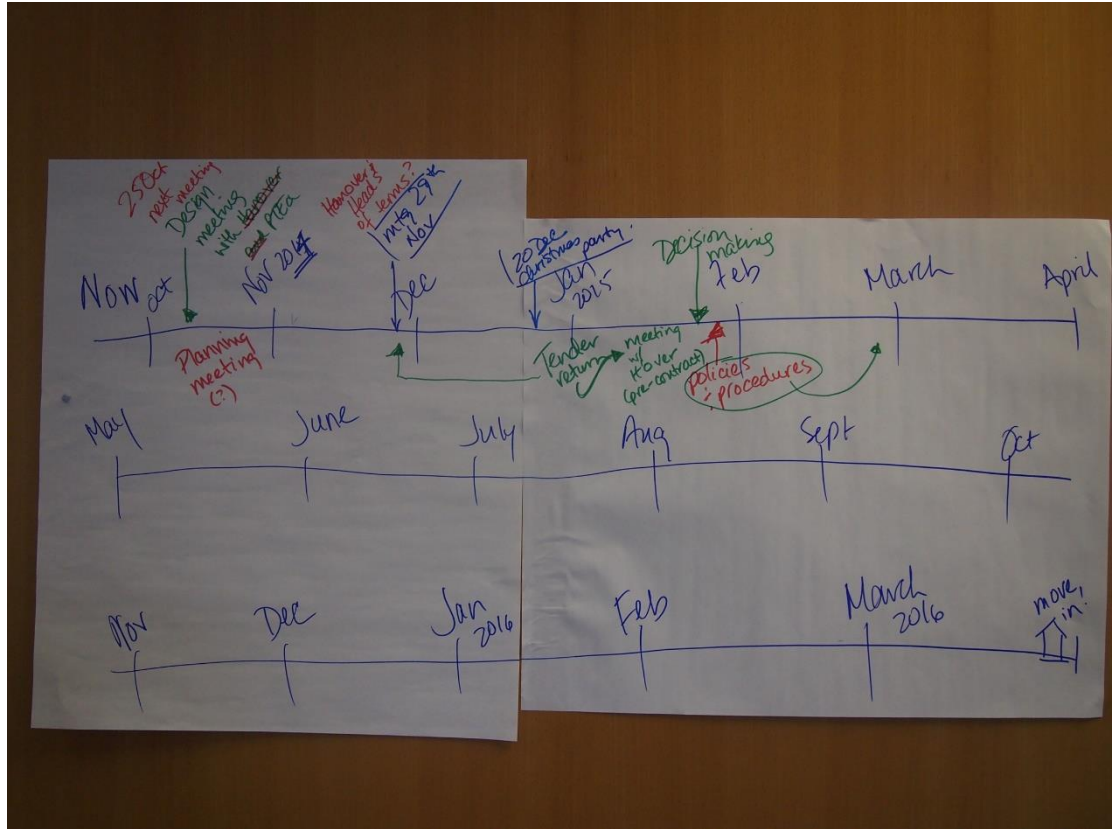


Lancaster Cohousing

What did we learn?

Interest and demand is **increasing** but the process can be **long and difficult...**

and **mainstreaming** can take years—or decades.



What did we learn?

- Groups in the UK often **struggle to get off the ground**
- We are **both late and slow to deliver** community housing compared to similar countries

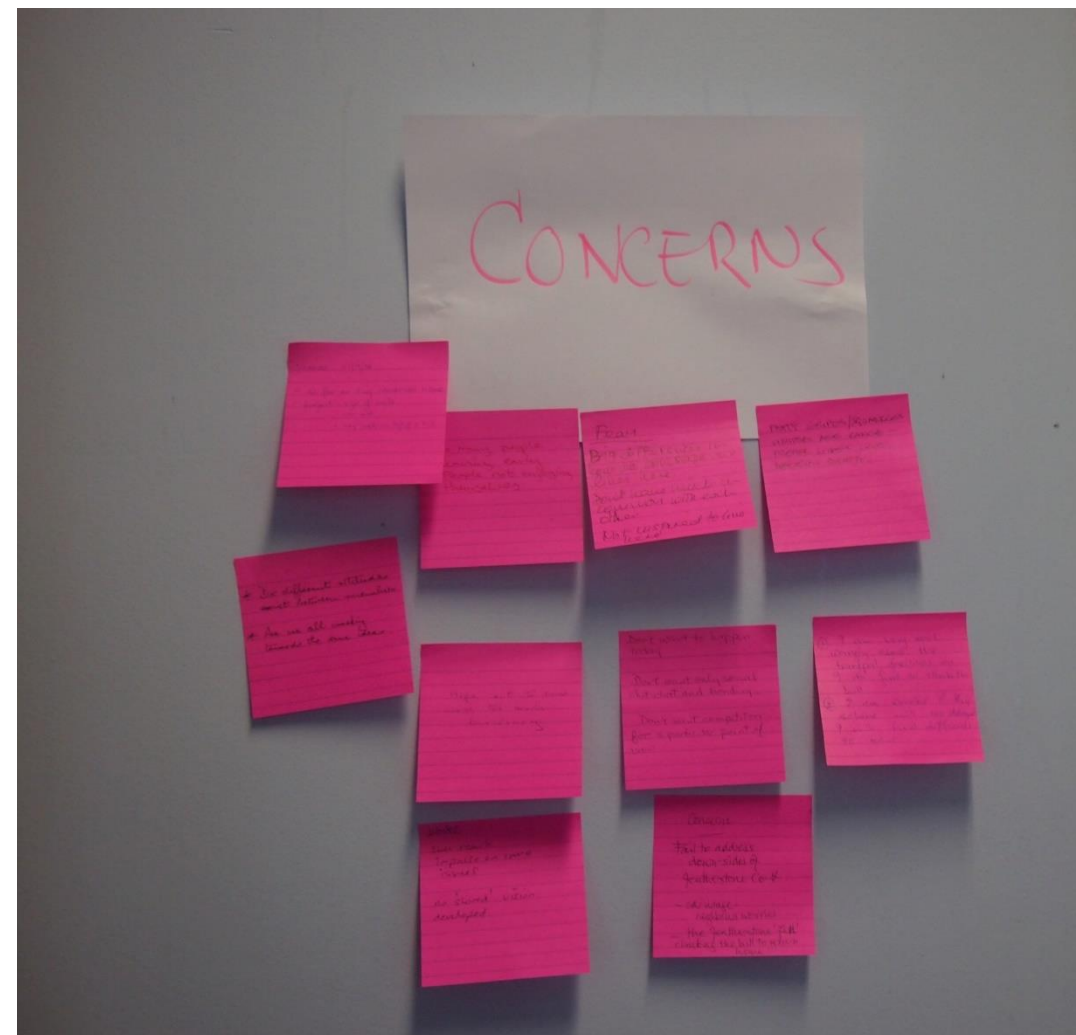
UK: 19 cohousing communities

Germany: >600



What did we learn?

Existing **planning, financial and institutional infrastructures** often do not support cohousing



Asks—from lenders

- Work with the sector to **improve the financial products available** and exchange knowledge about what lenders and groups require from each other

Asks—from central government

Rather than providing housing for people, change the political and cultural framework to **enable people to do it themselves**—in particular

- Ensure that custom- and self-build policies **improve access to funding and land for collective projects** as well as individuals

Asks—from local government

- **Make more land available, especially in urban areas.** A uniform approach to valuing social added value would help
- **Provide help to groups** to form and to navigate the challenges of designing and building cohousing projects;