

# UKCHN

## Cohousing in the News

### Newsletter from On the Brink Sheffield

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On the Brink Cohousing has recently featured as part of the Charity Bank 'Follow the Money' campaign. <https://charitybank.org/charity-profiles/on-the-brink-co-housing-community-ltd>

Charity Bank has loaned us money towards the development costs of converting / refurbishing Brincliffe House. Now we have made it over the threshold and are starting to celebrate living/ cohousing together.

Since taking back control of our imposing, stone-built house - now with reduced environmental impact due to high levels of insulation and solar panels - 12 households have moved in.



We are delighted with the bespoke living spaces that our architects and contractors have achieved for us. More importantly, we have accomplished our aim of creating an intentional, multi-generational, diverse community, with our current youngest residents aged 4 and 6 (and the oldest 72).



Creating an intentional community has taken time and effort but, much as we would like to relax into our new lives we're off again creating four exciting new living spaces, two of which will be available to new members. Both of these options are subject to approval of our pending planning application:

**Flat 4** in Brincliffe House itself is a lovely ground floor apartment. It's all on one level with a floor area of 109 m<sup>2</sup>. There are three good sized bedrooms and would suit people with children or perhaps a couple of new members sharing.

**House B** is in the proposed new-build extension to the side of Brincliffe House. This house (subject to planning approval), is configured rather like a town house on three levels. It's our largest living space at 135 m<sup>2</sup>. It has four great bedrooms and would be excellent for people with children or perhaps some new members sharing.

**If you are interested in joining our community e-mail us at [otbcohousing@gmail.com](mailto:otbcohousing@gmail.com)**

As was the case with the Phase 1 refurbishment, we will be launching an external supporter investment/ loan scheme for people who want to invest in the new build development as we continue to grow our successful community.

**If you are interested in finding out more about our new supporter investment scheme please e-mail us at [otbcohousing@gmail.com](mailto:otbcohousing@gmail.com)**



It's not all graft though, as we've had several parties and live music concerts in our adaptable communal spaces. On the Brink has also opened up to our neighbours with tea, cake and guided tours as, although we do have rather grand gates, we will never be a gated community.



We have started to do some gardening and the first crop of beans, salad leaves, kale, chard, courgettes, damsons and soft fruit have already been harvested. Where builders' rubble once was the only feature there are now flowers, pots growing all sorts, and multiple compost bins. We are doing our best to recycle what we can, plan our journeys by public transport wherever possible and our first set of solar panels is now functioning.



Of course the building work isn't entirely complete and there have been teething problems. There's quite a list of 'snagging' items that are in the process of being sorted. And hey! It turns out that we don't all agree about everything. Well that's a surprise, who would have

thought that filling a place with such a gang of lively, strong minded individuals wouldn't all be plain sailing? But it turns out that ways forward and resolution can be found – as long as there are enough meetings.





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