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homeimprovements



Collective Custom Build is a web-based advocacy tool that makes the case for developing Collective Custom Build as part of a more diverse housing market in the UK. It uses an animated narrative to curate key research findings, revealing them as peelbacks at key points in its argument.

Collective Custom Build is part of the *Motivating Collective Custom Build* practice-based research project within the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funded *Home Improvements Knowledge Exchange* based at the University of Sheffield. *Motivating Collective Custom build* is led jointly by the University of Sheffield School of Architecture, Ash Sakula Architects and Design for Homes.

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EMERGING INDEPENDENT SCHEMES

EMERGING INDEPENDENT GROUP CUSTOM BUILD SCHEMES

Summary

It is difficult to identify many emerging, entirely Independent Group Custom Build schemes in the academic literature¹, as most emerging schemes involve some form of partnership to overcome key prohibitive barriers, such as access to land or finance, or organising as a group. For example, the Land Society in Devon, and Cornwall CLTs Ltd. In Cornwall continue to assist a significant number of local groups and interested individuals to form Community Land Trusts and find sites on the edges of rural towns and villages, and many of these groups are currently in the process of developing their proposals and applying for planning permission (Cornwall Rural Housing Association, 2013a, 2013b; Fox, 2013; Moore and Northcott, 2010; T. Stevens, 2013a; The Land Society, 2013).

Additionally, a significant number of Cohousing groups are in the process of looking for a site and developing proposals².

A joint venture between two organisations - Ecomotive and Wu Wo - has established the online Community Build portal to allow people to search for other people, form groups, search for land and manage their communications and negotiations for buying land. The portal also uses an online map to identify groups and to date has registered a significant number of groups or individuals wishing to form a group³.

¹ Lack of academic literature of 'emerging' subjects is attributable to the slow response time that conventional academic publication channels have – hence they are not always appropriate to capture 'emerging' things while they are emerging.

² The Cohousing Groups Directory - an online map maintained by the UK Cohousing Network - not only identifies emerging groups, likely to develop largely Independent Group Custom Build schemes, but also provides a conduit through which interested individuals and organisations can engage with groups and the UK Cohousing Network as an umbrella organisation - see www.cohousing.org.uk/groups (UK Cohousing Network, 2013)

³ See www.communitybuild.org.uk/find-group

Some existing independent groups - such as the Hockerton Housing Project⁴ - have plans to extend their schemes, or build second phases..

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This excerpt is taken from www.collectivecustombuild.org and forms a single element of a wider research study. Please visit the website or contact us at collectivecustombuild@sheffield.ac.uk for more information.



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⁴ The Hockerton Housing project has already completed a scheme in Nottinghamshire as an independent self-providing group (Self Build Portal, 2013), and has plans to begin a second phase of development in the near future. (Hockerton Housing Project, 2013).