



# Community



Lilac is an innovative and pioneering cohousing project completed in March 2013 in Bramley, Leeds in the UK. It features 20 homes and a shared common house built from straw bales and timber. Lilac is a member-led not-for-profit co-operative and aims to share its learning with others. This series of briefing notes outlines the various aspects of the Lilac model and its key features. They can be downloaded from the website.

- Lilac is a cohousing community which combines private homes with shared central space.
- Cohousing is a design approach to building strong communities and is widespread throughout the world.
- Lilac is a bone-fide co-operative equally controlled by all its members.
- Members use consensus decision making rather than majority voting.
- Lilac uses community agreements to outline expectations in areas such as food, pets, communal spaces, and guests.
- Four levels of decision-making are used: major, significant, routine, emergency.
- Lilac has eight task teams that make routine decisions: finance, landscape, maintenance, food, process, community, publicity, learning. Participation is voluntary and rotates.
- Lilac holds General Meetings every two months where proposals and major decisions are agreed.
- Lilac has a Board of members (the Hub) which meets six times per year and provides an overview on legal/financial issues.

*'We use a cohousing approach to build strong community bonds and a sense of neighbourliness.'*



**Lilac: the UK's first affordable, low impact cohousing neighbourhood**

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