

LILAC



BRIEFING SHEET

Timeline 2006-2013



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.

- Dec 2006. First chat amongst 5 friends about cohousing
- 2007. Idea of 'DIY cohousing project' emerges between friends in Leeds-Oxford-Newcastle
- 2007 – 2009. Parallel conversations about an Ecovillage in Leeds
- Nov 2007. Weekend gathering to take forward idea of Leeds Ecovillage
- 2008. Leeds Ecovillage has meetings with councillors, funders, land owners
- Summer 2008. Leeds Ecovillage Business Plan discussed with Leeds City Council
- July 2008. UnLtd grant awarded for website, legal documents, logo
- Sept 2008. Name change to Lilac
- Jan 2009. Sites discussed with Leeds City Council
- May 2009. Lilac MHOS Ltd legally incorporated with 5 founding members
- Mid 2009. Initial discussions with Amazonails and Stroma about project feasibility
- Summer 2009. Lilac approach Leeds City Council about buying Wyther Park site
- Sept 2009. Leeds City Council offer support and exclusivity agreement signed
- Oct 2009. Project Manager Appointed
- Nov 2009. Lilac Project Development Plan launched
- Feb 2010. First members join
- Early 2010. White Design Associates appointed as architect
- HCA/DECC grant awarded to use Mod-cell as construction route
- Spring 2010. Quantity Surveyor and solicitor appointed
- Sept 2010. Community Consultation for planning application
- February 2011. Planning application submitted
- May 2011. Planning permission granted
- Late 2011. Lindum Group appointed as main contractor
- Early 2012. Last of 20 homes allocated
- March 2012. Work starts on site
- Summer 2012. Flying factory 'community build' takes place
- March - May 2013 residents move in

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

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