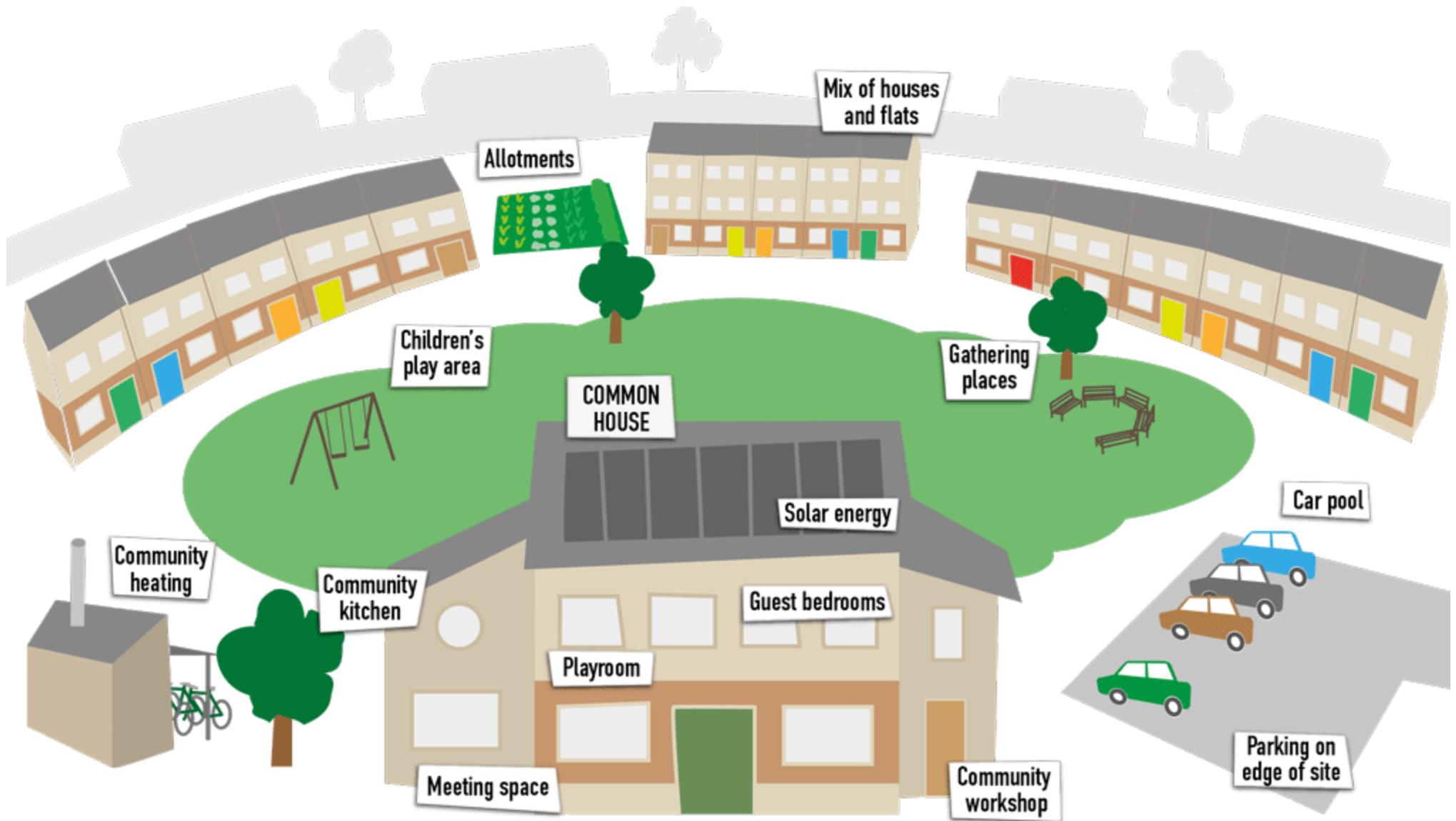


# COHOUSING: SHARED FUTURES

**Parliamentary launch**

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





Mix of houses and flats

Allotments

Children's play area

Gathering places

COMMON HOUSE

Solar energy

Car pool

Community heating

Community kitchen

Guest bedrooms

Playroom

Parking on edge of site

Meeting space

Community workshop

# 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*

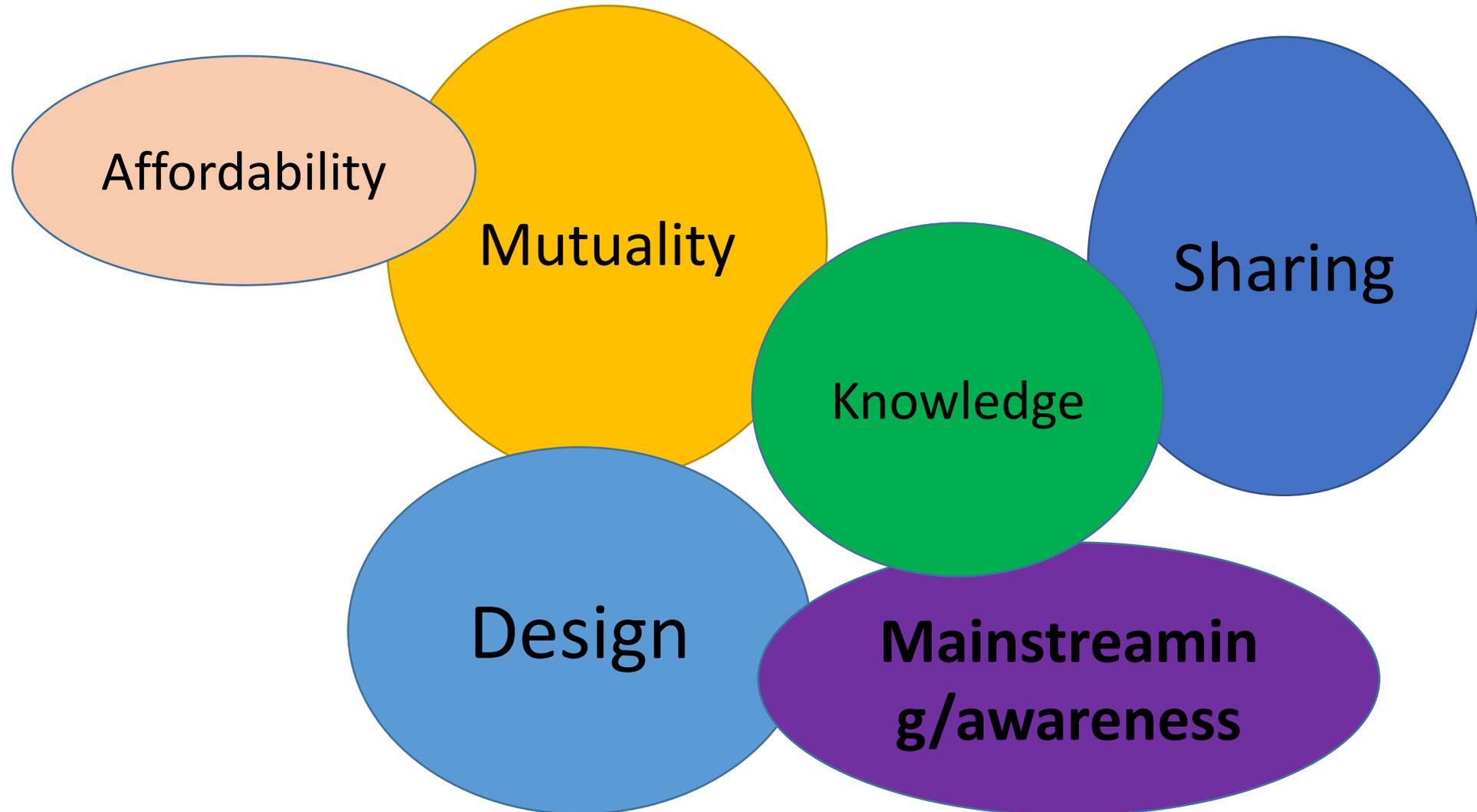


# Our seminars

Joint working with practitioners



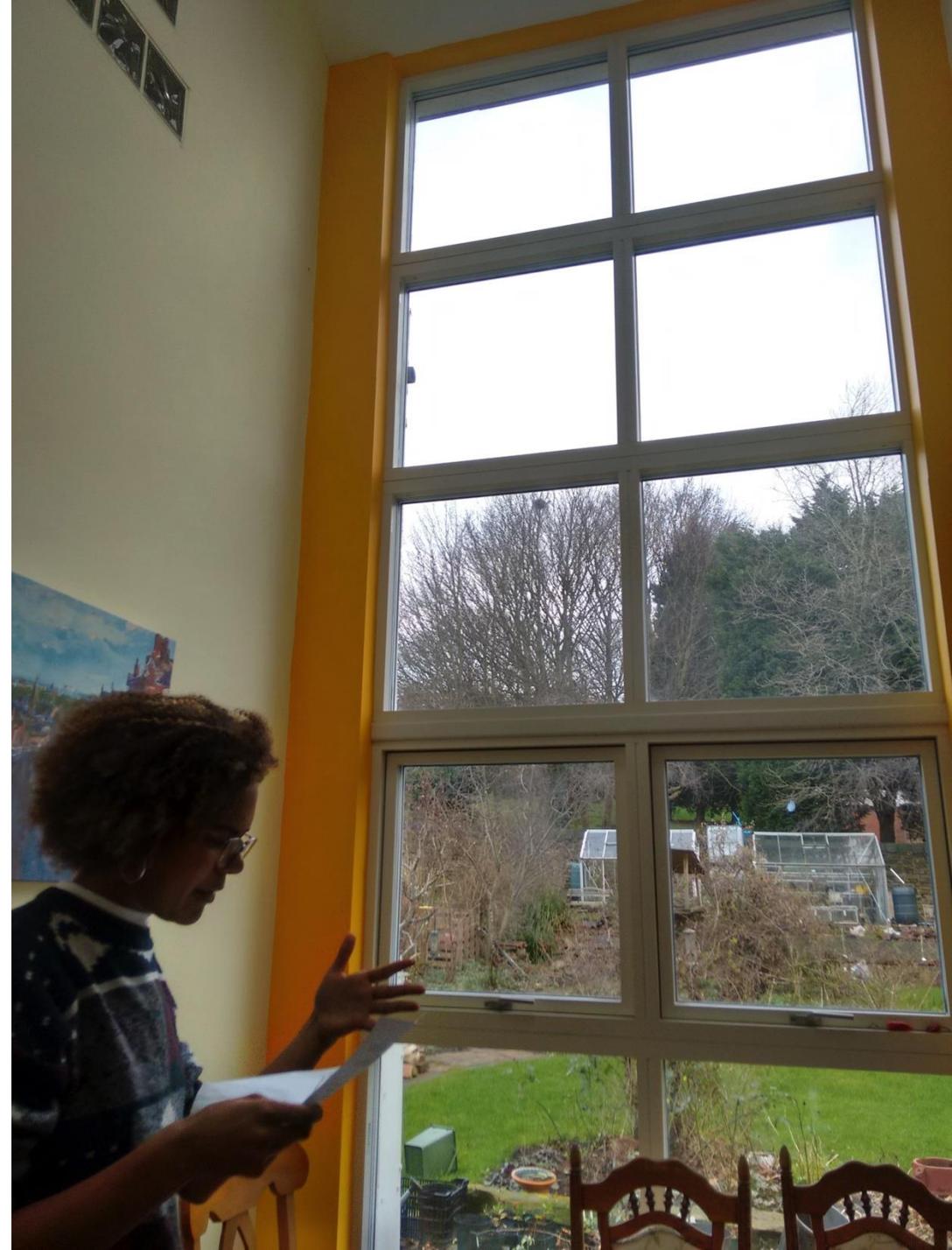
# Themes



# UK examples



Shirle Hill, Sheffield



# UK examples



Fireside, Sheffield



# UK examples



LILAC, Leeds



# UK examples

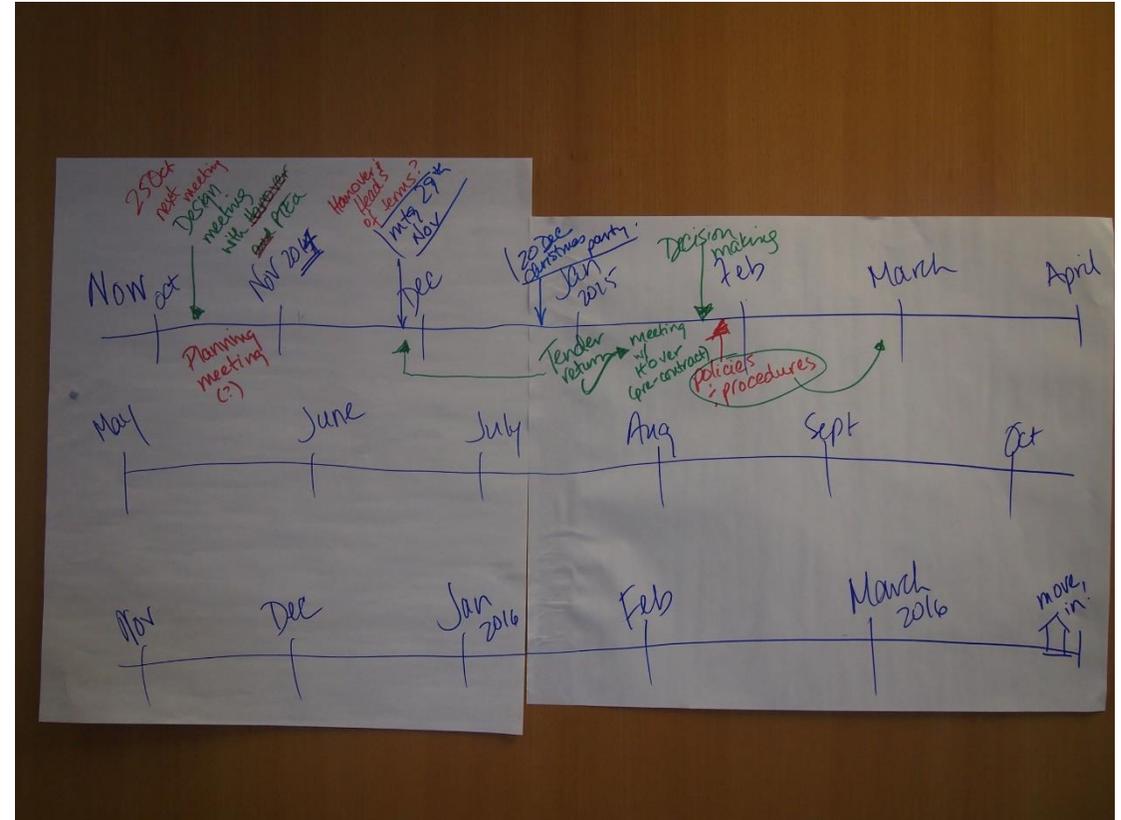


Lancaster Cohousing

# 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

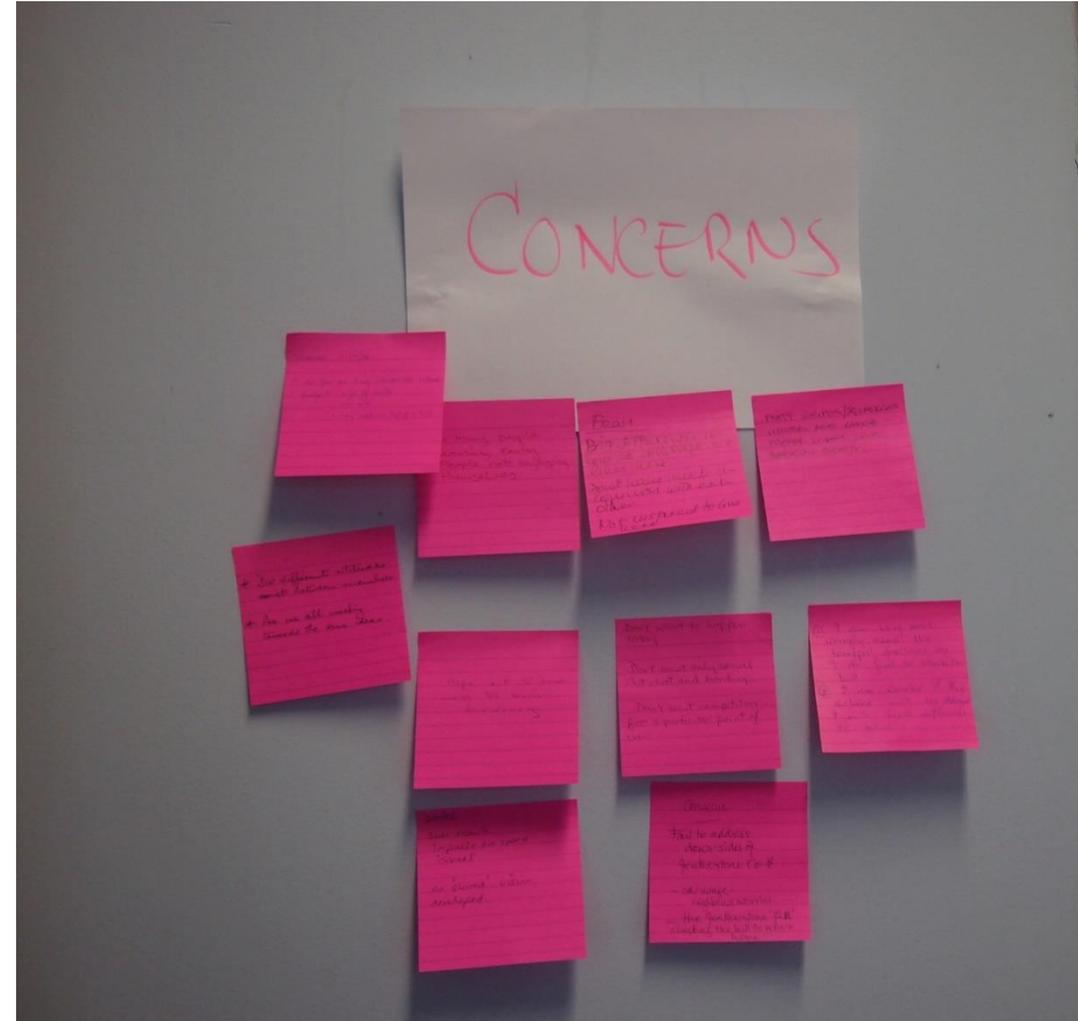
UK: 19 cohousing communities

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;