In an era of housing crises, ecological deterioration and social fragmentation, the need for more sociable, affordable and sustainable housing is vital. Co-housing has become mainstream in many European countries but is relatively new to Ireland. Groups across the country are coming together around a shared desire for a deeper sense of belonging, neighbourliness and mutual support that contemporary housing options lack.

Housing Ourselves is an annual event bringing together those interested in co-housing, sustainable community advocates, housing agencies, planners, architects and social finance organisations to progress making co-housing a reality in Ireland.

Housing Ourselves 18 will explore the cultural barriers, discuss options for financing and introduce new approaches to constructing co-housing neighbourhoods. It will also facilitate the sharing of knowledge and skills amongst emerging projects with the aim of creating genuinely affordable homes and strong communities.

Speakers Include - Fiona Dunkin (Co-operative Housing Ireland) Hugh Brennan (Ó Cualann Cohousing Alliance) Peadar Kirby (Cloughjordan Ecovillage) Ruari-Santiago McBride (Cloughjordan Co-Housing) Caelan Bristow (De Wett Studio) Mike Haslam (Haslam & Co Architects) Ebanie Powell (e.powell design) Tim Crowley (Ó Cualann Cohousing Alliance) Donal Traynor (Community Finance Ireland) Kim O'Shea (Interaction Design Centre, University of Limerick) Fox Keohane and Eldon Hillard (Irish Community Living Network) Davie Philip and Aaron Bailey (Cultivate)

This event is part of the 2018 Convergence Festival

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Agenda

10.00  Registration / Informal Networking

10.30  Voices From the Field
Who is in the room? Introduction to emerging projects.

11.00  Opening / Welcome
Aaron Bailey, the youngest member of the Cloughjordan Co-Housing will welcome participants and Davie Philip (Cultivate) will introduce the programme of the event.

11.10  A New Climate for Community-Led Housing
Sustainable Community: The Need For a Different Model of Housing
Peadar Kirby is a resident of Cloughjordan Ecovillage and a Director of Sustainable Projects Ireland, the educational charity progressing the project. In this short presentation Peadar will outline the cultural barriers to co-housing and why sharing and ecological responsibility are essential elements of successful communities.

Utopian Co-living: The Tradition and Practice of Living Together
Ruari-Santiago McBride lives in Cloughjordan and is an active member of Cloughjordan Co-Housing and is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Limerick. Ruari will give an overview of the rich tradition of collaborative and community-led housing in Europe.

11.30  Financial Options for Co-Housing Groups
Tim Crowley from Ó Cualann Cohousing Alliance and Donal Traynor, Associate Director Community Finance Ireland will outline what funding options are currently possible and introduce new approaches to capitalising community-led projects. This session sets the context for the break out discussion on the topic of financing Co-Housing projects.

12.00  Construction Options for Co-Housing Projects
Architects Mike Haslam (Haslam & Co Architects) and Caelan Bristow (De Wett Studio) present new ideas for sustainable off-site and modular construction systems. Ebanie Powell (e.powell design) introduces new ideas for affordable micro homes

12.30  Co-Housing Networking and Building a Community Living Movement
Davie Philip (Cultivate) and Kim O'Shea (Limerick University) introduce the need for a Community of Practice of co-housing advocates to share best practice and create new knowledge to advance co-housing in Ireland.

Irish Community Living Network website launch.
Fox Keohane and Eldon Hillard are part of group of people who organised a series of events last year called the Irish Community Living Unconferences. A result of these gatherings is a new web platform for people interested in living in community to connect.

This session sets the context for the break out discussion on the topic of networking and knowledge sharing for co-housing stakeholders.

12.45 - Advancing Co-operative Living
Fiona Dunkin the Policy & Communications Manager of Co-operative Housing Ireland (CHI) introduces the national federation representing co-operative housing in Ireland. CHI has a forty-year track record in forging innovative partnerships between communities and the public and private sectors and promotes the continued expansion of the co-operative housing sector as a solution to housing need.

13.00  Local Lunch - Enjoy a meal from Cloughjordan and a stroll around the Ecovillage.

14.30  Break Out Sessions
Progressing Financial Options for Co-Housing Groups
Tim Crowley and Donal Traynor lead a discussion on how we might finance co-housing projects.

Construction Options for Co-Housing Projects
Caelan Bristow, Mike Haslem and Ebanie Powell, lead a discussion on construction options.

Networking - Progressing a Movement for Co-Housing
Davie Philip, Fox Keohane, Kim O’Shea and Eldon Hillard lead a discussion on how best to ensure good communication and knowledge sharing between co-housing groups and projects promoting sustainable living.

15.30  Networking Break

16.00  Feedback from Breakout Sessions
Short reports from each of the breakouts.

16.20  Panel Discussion
Fiona Dunkin (CHI) and Hugh Brennan (Ó Cualann) in conversation with Davie Philip on the possibilities for accelerating a cooperative approach to housing.

16.50  Closing Reflections

17.00  Close

BOOKING & FULL DETAILS AT www.cultivate.ie