

# Community Led Housing - A Recipe for Resilient Communities?



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# Cooperative Housing



A Bright Idea from the Welsh Government

But did anyone else think so?

Making it a Reality



# A New Experience and a Challenge for Pobl

## What it felt like

- Ha ha – no pressure!

## Worries

- Risks and unknown quantities

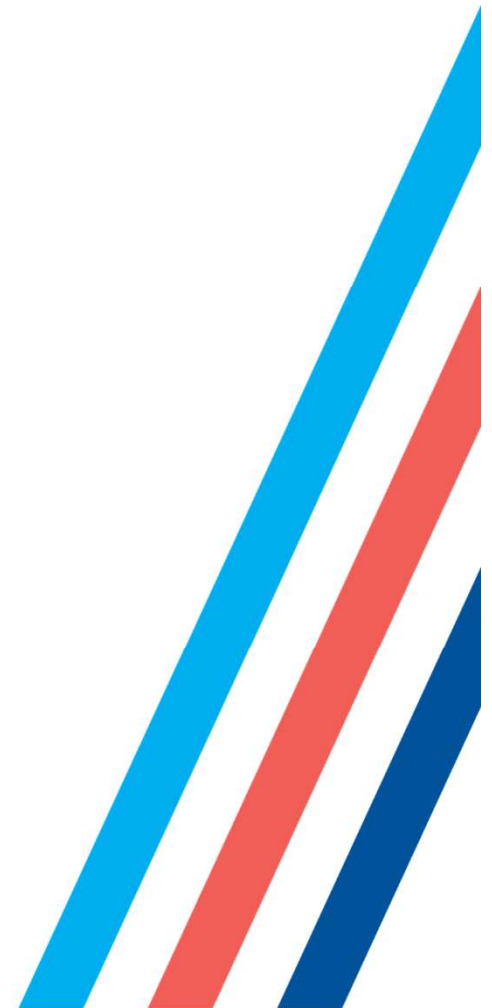
## How we responded

- Turning 'Top Down' upside down
- Quality support
- Clarity of purpose
- Belief in the group



# The Community Embrace the Concept

- Gaining the confidence and skills to take on responsibility for their homes and their community
- Meeting fortnightly for training sessions and to co write the management agreement, and various policies
- Rent collection, stair casing up, new members
- Creating a communal garden, a communal meeting space, collective bargaining, traffic campaign
- Organising social activities for themselves and others on the garden village estate





# The Challenges for the Community

- Hard work and complex
- Learning to work together
- Dealing with disagreements



# What we know now

Lessons we learned apply more widely (ABCD)

- It wasn't (and often isn't) their idea!
- Remember communities are dynamic and so are organisations
- They have their own pressures
- Trusting people and giving away our expertise
- Sticking with it - an ongoing responsibility to walk alongside and be ready to grab the saddle

Community led housing has so much potential

- The memory has faded 😊 and we will do it again
- Lessons for the future – a Cooperative manifesto
  - ✓ When
  - ✓ The Offer
  - ✓ The Framework



# A New Experience for us all – but we weren't alone



## *Loftus Village Association*

Thriving with the support of;

- Pobl Group
- Welsh Government
- Wales Cooperative Centre
- Confederation of Cooperative Housing

And lots of optimistic individuals too numerous to mention whose belief and trust made it work

