



HOMEMAKING – a creative project to run alongside the building of affordable homes for rent in Drimpton, west Dorset, in Broadwindsor Group Parish area.

INTRODUCTION:

Broadwindsor Group Parish Community Land Trust (BGP CLT) was established to develop 15 affordable homes for rent within the Parish area in direct response to the demand for affordable housing highlighted over the years in local community questionnaires, in the Broadwindsor Parish Plan (2012), and the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan (2018-20310). After years of hard work, BGP CLT, led by its Board of community volunteers, has now reached the stage of building these 15 homes in the small rural village of Drimpton, population c400. These will provide homes at an affordable rent to people with a strong connection to the local Parish area.

As a community we have made this happen. Now as a community we want to actively participate, alongside BGP CLT's development partner (Abri) and the appointed construction company (CG Fry), by recording the process of change in a range of creative and novel ways. Developed by the established community the project outcomes are designed to create welcoming links with our new villagers when they move into the community, and help build long term bridges. Change may often be seen as a threat, but we intend for change to be an opportunity both for the existing residents and for our prospective new neighbours to build a stronger and more vital community.

With this in mind we are planning the multi-stranded project 'HOMEMAKING' designed, managed and delivered by community members across Broadwindsor Group Parish area.

THE STRANDS:

Music & Song

Maurice Blogg, musician, will write a piece in four sections in response to the land and the making of homes.

Peter Ashton will write 'A Song For Drimpton' and form a voluntary choir to perform it.

Art:

The BGPCLT wishes to commission local professional artist, Jenny Beck, to create a piece with the idea of 'Transitions' at its heart – the change from open field to new homes. Prints of her finished work will be gifted to each new household to welcome them. The original will be installed in Drimpton Village Hall, displaying a link between the new and the established villagers as a constant reminder of what we can achieve together.

Photography:

Villagers Brian Hesketh and Steve Chubb will make a visual diary of the changes that are to occur on the site from now until mid 2023. This record will enable existing and new villagers to observe progress and will ultimately be presented in digital format to the local museum in Beaminster, for future reference.

Made From Waste:

Working closely with the developers, villagers will be able to access and use suitable 'waste' materials generated during the construction phase. They will re-use and re-purpose materials, especially wood, thus contributing to reduction in waste whilst recycling it into something of value; reducing negative environmental impact whilst at the same time supporting local wildlife. Retired engineer, Robin Moses, will lead a team of local volunteers of all ages designing and making bird boxes, bat

boxes, bug hotels, bird tables and hedgehog boxes. It is hoped that these will be included within the overall landscape design, and also made available to the wider community across the parish – widening the project's reach and building yet more bridges.

Bench:

Self-employed village metal worker, Rob Hedditch, will make a metal bench to be installed in the community area of the development, to be set at the foot of a well-loved mature oak tree. This will offer a place for new residents to meet up and build their own links.

Other strands will develop over time. We anticipate active involvement by villagers in the hedge planting that will occur during the landscaping phase. We are approaching the local Primary School inviting it to consider participating in ways that are both practical and educationally valuable. When the new residents will be about to move in, we will compile a Welcome Pack, to include examples of the strands described above, together with a useful directory.

To mark the end of the project, there will be a celebratory "Show & Tell" event in Drimpton Village Hall, inviting everyone to come together to see and share in our joint achievements.