

Crosby Ravensworth Housing Steering Group Update Aug 2009

The Housing Group Members have been particularly busy over the last few months with some of the key points to note being:

- We have instructed solicitors to set up a charitable company to be called the **Lyvennet Community Trust**. Being a charity will allow us to lock in any affordable housing built for the village and for it to remain so in perpetuity.
- We have started to explore in earnest funding through various Government bodies including the Homes & Communities Agency and North West Development Agency. We are also exploring the opportunity to provide office/workspace linked to the housing on site. This would very much be dependant on demand but would allow greater funding access. If you are interested in this please let us know.
- We are working closely with Eden District Council, both officers and councillors, who are particularly supportive of a community led approach to affordable housing. They also have some limited funds, which are available.
- We have been awarded a small start up grant from the Tudor Trust which will allow us to develop our business plans.
- We have also applied to the Village SOS scheme being run by the Big Lottery and BBC One Show. The BBC is looking to follow 6 village community projects during 2010/2011. Receipt of our application has been confirmed and if successful we stand to get a share of £3m.

We remain focused on the Marshall's site in Silver Street which would provide a real opportunity to provide a mixed site with rented, shared ownership and some self build plots.

Marshall's have yet to gain outline planning for the site, although we expect this to be imminent. The site will then be advertised on the open market. We have declared our serious interest.

Going forward the most important area of work over the next couple of months is raising the funds to acquire the site. Quite a challenge! We would love to hear from anyone with money to invest or with good ideas on sources.

In addition we would love to hear from anyone with some good ideas, willing to help or simply just to keep in touch with progress.

Feel free to give any of the group a ring or stop and speak to us. We will be happy to answer any queries.

David Graham, Annie Kindleysides, Joan Raine, Doug Henderson, Christine & Cameron Smith, Steve Holroyd, Roger Bird, Susan Ferguson, Gordon Bowness and Jill Winder.