

Local stories, national impact

PlaceShapers
Building Homes and Lives

Our Annual Review 2020-2021

Incommunities

PlaceShapers shares our vision of improving lives. We work to empower communities through place-based initiatives and value the knowledge sharing opportunities, impactful campaigns and quality learning events being a PlaceShaper provides.



South Lakes Housing

As a member of PlaceShapers we can learn and share with other community focused social landlords and drive forward improvements for our residents and communities.



Soha Housing

Our residents benefit from the campaigns and initiatives which PlaceShapers instigates at a national level.



North Devon Homes

We are proud to be a member and to be able to combine our knowledge and experience with other PlaceShapers to provide better communities across the UK and tackle the bigger issues together.



Eastlight Community Homes

We're proud to be part of PlaceShapers and to work alongside like-minded, community-based social landlords and providers to solve the challenges facing our communities.



Vectis Housing

VHA is proactive in supporting our residents where we are able, which has made a huge difference. In turn, we have been supported by the expertise and knowledge of our colleagues in PlaceShapers.



Twitter 2020-2021

Tweets: 805
New followers: 448
Total followers: 6563
Profile visits: 17074
Impressions: 915000
Mentions: 1210

To find out more about your network go to www.placeshapers.org
Follow us on Twitter and LinkedIn @placeshapers

**Dear PlaceShaper,
It's been a bit of funny year...**

We were just waving off Interim Director Paul Smith and welcoming Rachael Orr back from maternity leave when we were plunged into full lockdown. Being gripped by a pandemic was not part of our planned changes which saw Chair, Sinéad Butters and Vice-Chair, Charlie Norman stand down - with our huge thanks - and hand over the reins to Matthew Walker and Claire Higgins.

Our plans were rewritten as PlaceShapers responded to the unforeseen challenges that 2020 had in store for us...

Incoming Chair Matthew says:

I took over in June and, building on the amazing legacy of Sinéad and Charlie, we started a review of our priorities - thanks to all those who got involved.

Following this, the Board agreed an overarching statement of priorities over the next three years, in which we will work to help members who are...

Working with communities to help them rebuild

Under that banner we've started a number of projects, led by Board members:

- **The customers' green agenda, ensuring the customer voice is heard in this critical area, in partnership with Tpas**
- **Diverse Voices sessions running monthly to explore different aspects of diversity to help inform attendees about life from each perspective covered**
- **Regional work in the North East with the independent think tank Bright Blue and Red Wall MPs to explore social infrastructure and strengthen social landlords/MP relationships**
- **Project to explore how members manage differently in the places they operate, coming out of Covid, in partnership with HACT**

Following a request from members we have facilitated the formation of a Chairs' Group to explore strategic issues and have held numerous online events on a wide variety of topics to provide a forum for shared learning.

We've also participated in meetings with the Regulator, MHCLG and the Secretary of State for Housing to promote the interests of members across a range of topics.

It's your voices that make the real difference. We are delighted that the Government recently decided against temporarily raising the small sites threshold from 10 to 50 homes as part

of proposed changes to the planning system. Our lobbying on this used evidence from members showing the negative impact on affordable housing supply.

In our recently published report 'Engaging with social housing residents on the UK's journey to net zero carbon' our residents' views came through loud and clear. We are looking at the next stages of this work, hearing that residents want a clear roadmap for our journey to net-zero carbon.

We are community-focused organisations who care passionately about what we do. There are literally hundreds of stories about what we do and the impact it has on the people we serve.

One Chief Executive summed it up well when describing the welfare calls they were making to vulnerable customers... "She couldn't believe we cared enough to call, saying that we were the first person she'd spoken to in two days."

That's PlaceShapers, and I love being a part of it.



Matthew Walker
Chair
PlaceShapers



In 2020-2021 PlaceShapers have held:

31 events



with **525** registrations

Annual Conference

14

sessions over three days



with **301** registrations

Participated in



4

joint webinars with HACT, Communities that Work, Harry's Pledge and Community Land Trusts

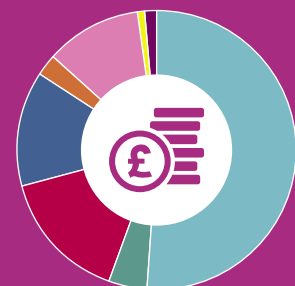
Reports

In partnership with others:

- HACT, Places after the Pandemic
- Communities that Work, APPG on Housing and Social Mobility
- Tpas, Engaging with social housing residents on the UK's journey to net zero carbon

Our spending

- Staff salaries
- HACT report
- Campaigns
- Red Wall MPs Project
- APPG Housing and Social Mobility
- Red Wall MPs Project
- Events
- Website



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