

Planning meeting July 2020

Item 8

Copy of the email received from Mr James Ratchford, Heartward Community Project
Dated 9th July 2020

Dear Julie O'Donnell

I'm writing to you on behalf of Heartward Community Housing (www.heartward.co).

We are a Sussex-based group of households who have spent over two years building a viable vision of affordable community-led housing that will also involve land regeneration and food crop cultivation. We believe our model offers a sustainable 21st-century solution to both the housing and environmental crises we face, as well as helping with issues such as social isolation.

Our project has recently secured preliminary financial backing from a leading sustainable asset management firm as well as a fast-track ecological build company and we are now actively searching for land to invest in.

We are looking for 3-20 acres in a rural or semi-rural location. Our vision is to build a cohousing community created and run by its residents; that is, several self-contained, private homes (from 10-25 households) that share some facilities, outdoor spaces and a community building.

Affordability, sharing skills such as permaculture and sustainable land use and integration with the local community all form a core part of our vision. And we would love to be able to work with a like-minded council to make this vision a reality.

So we would appreciate it if you could keep us in mind for any suitable plots/sites coming up for development. Perhaps we could discuss this further via a phone call or meeting?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Warmly

James Ratchford
Heartward community member