

Old Oak Housing Co-operative



27 homes
Intermediate rented

For further information:
priceamanda76@gmail.com

Old Oak Housing Co-operative has been set up to manage 27 intermediate rent family houses on Job's Well Road, Carmarthen. One of the Welsh Government's pioneer co-operative housing schemes, it was originally initiated by Carmarthenshire County Council, who wished to explore how a co-operative housing scheme could provide homes in the area. The Council asked Gwalia, now part of Pobl Group, to develop the site and to initiate development of the housing co-operative. Shaping the development to enable community interaction, the anticipated local co-operative community nature of the scheme played a part in Gwalia being granted planning permission in early 2015.

With founding members for the co-operative drawn from local people on Carmarthen's waiting list in late 2014, Gwalia has worked with the CCH, working through the Wales Co-operative Centre's support programme, funded by the Welsh Government and the Nationwide Foundation, to assist develop the co-operative. The homes are owned by Gwalia who have agreed a management agreement

with Old Oak Co-operative to enable them to manage the services they wish to take on. Deciding on this involved extensive training and development and working in partnership with a wide range of staff from Gwalia, all of whom have been impressed by the growing self-reliance of the developing co-op.

With strong community bonds growing between the founder members, the co-op has quickly developed a strong sense of identity. They elected their first committee in mid 2015 and various officers have been chosen, including Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, as well as rents, repairs and allocations groups, and one member is doing the grounds maintenance. The allocations group participated in allocating the founder members to each of the homes, and the repairs group is exploring what local contractors can be used for when the first year's defects period ends. Apart from managing rents, the co-op has chosen to take control of most of the housing services, buying some of the services back from Gwalia as needed. Members moved into their homes at the end of 2016.



We can provide a really good local service and save money that we can use in our local community. It's a fantastic opportunity we have been given here. The skills we are learning will open doors for us in the future and the strength of our growing co-op will make us a really strong community.

Amanda Price - Secretary Old Oak Housing Co-operative



We are delighted to see the co-operative housing schemes in Carmarthenshire progressing well. We have been at the forefront of cooperative housing in Wales, and see it as an important contribution towards our strategic aim of providing a range of affordable housing options for local people.

Cllr Linda Evans, Executive Member for Housing Carmarthenshire County Council

This has been a positive experience for all the staff involved. They have been really motivated by Old Oak's development. We wanted to offer the founder members considerable opportunity to take control of their homes, and they have really responded positively to the opportunity. It's been a fantastic partnership so far.

Nick Read - Head of Housing Gwalia