

West Whitlawburn Housing Co-operative

Founded in 1989, West Whitlawburn Housing Co-operative is a shining example of a community collectively addressing and taking control of their housing needs. With over 600 housing units and a waiting list of over 400 people seeking tenancy, WWHC has established itself as a highly regarded community institution and continues to successfully deliver services to its tenants through its unique ownership and governance structure. It is based in the Cambuslang area of Glasgow.

<http://www.wwhc.co.uk/>

WWHC application of the co-operative principles:

Voluntary and open membership	Anyone over the age of sixteen can join the waiting list of WWHC.
Democratic member control	The membership of the co-op consists of the all the tenants in the housing. Every member is equal (one vote) and can be elected to the highest governing body in the co-op, the committee.
Member economic participation	Tenants must pay £1 to become a member of the co-op. This contribution cannot increase in value or be transferred.
Autonomy and independence	WWHC is independent from the local council and is in complete control of its operations.
Education, training and information	Any member wishing to stand on the committee is provided with training so they can participate effectively in meetings and make strategic decisions. WWHC provides a free copy of its annual report available to all its members.
Co-operation amongst co-operatives	WWHC has made links with other co-operatives throughout the UK and further afield. WWHC also works with a housing co-op in Malawi to share best practice and experience.



Concern for community	WWHC has introduced a number of social and environmental initiatives aimed at improving the community. The co-op built a resource centre with a cafe, youth club, computer facilities and an out of school care service. WWHC also employs a number of local residents to run these services.
------------------------------	---

