

TRANSFORMING HOMES NEWSLETTER

The Transforming Homes consortium is an ecosystem of stakeholders working together to transform existing homes through design using biobased materials and low carbon solutions to provide better places to live for future generations.

Activities happening across our consortium

A summer update

Dr Veronica Albarran Carrillo, Research Associate, Cardiff University

Summer began with researchers presenting work from the [Centre for Low Carbon Built Environment](#) and Transforming Homes to industry and supply chain professionals at the [InstallerSHOW](#) in Birmingham. The team also contributed to the [WoodBUILD Conference](#) in Treforest, hosted by our partners [Woodknowledge Wales](#), sharing insights into the use of bio-based materials in retrofit. This was followed by a resident workshop at the [National Tenants Conference](#) in Nottingham, and engagement with the [Welsh Government](#) through a knowledge exchange secondment led by Transforming Homes Principal Investigator Prof Jo Patterson. These demonstrate the breadth of our engagement activities across industry, government and the housing sector, strengthening partnerships and disseminating knowledge.



July also saw the delivery of our annual Webinar Series. Across three sessions, researchers shared progress on the consortium's main research activities. The first webinar explored the demonstration homes, with transformation now underway in Bristol and works in Swansea due to commence shortly. The second focused on co-design methods informing both the demonstration homes and the wider design research. The third examined the development of the Design Catalogue and the research supporting its delivery. As one of the project's main online engagement activities, the webinar series provided an annual update on progress to a broad audience from local government, academia, industry, housing providers and the third sector involved in housing transformation.

Parallel to this work, July marked the start of four On-Campus Internships at Cardiff University in the Transforming Homes studio, with students contributing to research on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), resident handover documentation, life cycle carbon assessment and housing archetype surveying. These internships will provide additional evidence and insights to support the consortium's ongoing research activities.

The consortium will continue its engagement programme throughout September, working with organisations like [Future Observatory](#), [Community Housing Cymru \(CHC\)](#), the [Welsh Government](#) and [Lime Green](#) to strengthen collaboration and support the translation of research into practice.

AHRC visits Transforming Homes

Dr Chenfei Liu, Research Associate, Cardiff University

In June, the Transforming Homes team welcomed staff from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) in Bristol. Hosted at The Factory, a facility owned by our project partner [WeCanMake](#), the visit provided an opportunity to share progress across the project and discuss how our interdisciplinary research is supporting home transformation in the UK.

The team presented updates on co-design activities with diverse stakeholders, modelling for decision-making, and the progress of works across the six demonstration homes in Bristol and Swansea. Discussions throughout the day enabled AHRC colleagues and consortium members to exchange perspectives and explore opportunities to strengthen the project's impact.

An interactive workshop invited participants to consider the opportunities and challenges of using bio-based materials in social housing retrofit, while a tour of The Factory showcased housing prototypes and detailed section models and allowed the residents and trade crew to share their experiences.

The visit reinforced the value of bringing together different stakeholders to reflect on progress and the opportunities ahead.



Engaging with the social housing sector at TPAS

Joel Cady, Research Associate, Cardiff University



In July, Laura Brain, Matt Ma and I attended the National Tenants Conference 2026 in Nottingham. Run by [TPAS](#), the conference brought together hundreds of engaged residents of social housing from across the UK. It included keynote presentations on *The Future of Tenant Voice and Influence*, panel discussions with tenants on *What Changed Because We Got Involved* and workshops on tenant engagement in social housing.

We ran an interactive workshop to demonstrate the resources we have developed to engage residents in discussions about their homes and how they could be transformed. These include template cardboard models of typical 1920-40 homes and visual worksheets to guide residents through the model-making activity. We aimed to gather ideas for transformation and feedback on the resources from stakeholders with significant knowledge and experience of tenant engagement.

We were joined by about 40 participants who worked in small teams to adapt their models based on a given brief. Key ideas discussed included the importance of accessibility, the need for larger, more open plan living spaces and the importance of insulation to reduce energy bills. The resources were well-received, with positive feedback on the benefits of physical models as a tool to discuss and develop ideas. It was a valuable couple of days, and we look forward to attending future TPAS events to show how our work has developed.

Photos by Matt Ma

Transforming Homes Blogs

From Design to Delivery: The Latest from the Bristol Demonstration Homes



Join Research Associate Emma Taylor as she shares the latest progress from the [Bristol demonstration homes](#). From collaborative design and resident engagement to on-site delivery, Emma explores how research has informed a transformation strategy centred on bio-based materials, local skills and community-led retrofit. As work continues on site, she reflects on the design decisions, delivery model and partnerships helping to bring the Transforming Homes vision into practice.

Interdisciplinary Design Processes for the Swansea Demonstration Homes



Join Research Associate Joel Cady as he explores the interdisciplinary design processes that shaped the [Swansea demonstration homes](#) proposals. Bringing together researchers, local authority teams, residents and industry partners, Joel reflects on how collaboration has informed proposals that respond to both the technical performance of the homes and the needs of the residents. As work prepares to begin on site, he highlights how the design process itself is generating knowledge to support housing transformation at scale.

Spotlight on...



Laura Brain

Research Associate,
Cardiff University,
Transforming Homes



Want to learn more about the team behind Transforming Homes?

Read more about our other spotlights in [our website](#).



Insights from beyond Transforming Homes



Toolkit suggested by
Lucy McFadzean



Report suggested by
Veronica Albarran Carrillo



Article suggested by
Joel Cady

External Events of Interest



Sustainable Ecological Engineering
Design for Society 2026
01 Online, 02 & 03 London



RGS-IBG International Annual
Conference
London



The Housing Community
Summit 2026
Liverpool



Net-Zero Future 2026
Conference
Darmstadt, Germany



The Housing Forum
2026 National Conference
London



SPACE International
Conference 2026
London

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