

Report on findings of 'Lockdown and Housing, Your Stories' Survey carried out via Survey Monkey, May – July 2020

Brighton & Hove Community Land Trust

A Community Land Trust (CLT) is a nonprofit community-led organisation that develops and stewards affordable housing and other assets that meet the needs of a community.

As lockdown started, everyone at BHCLT realised that this was the first national crisis that people have had to navigate while restricted to their homes, and wanted to explore if people's housing situation impacted on their experience of lockdown.

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The survey was completed by 272 people, 257 online via a web link, and 15 printed surveys via the Brighton & Unemployed Centre Families Project temporary foodbank.

217 filled it out anonymously and 45 gave us their contact details so they could be part of our work in the future.

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Respondents' Housing Situation:

- 53% were renters (138 responses)
- 35% were home owners (92 responses)
- 8% were homeless or in insecure/temporary accommodation (22 responses)
- Most people (198 responses) had lived in their current housing situation for 2+ years

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Did people's housing situation make lockdown easier or harder?

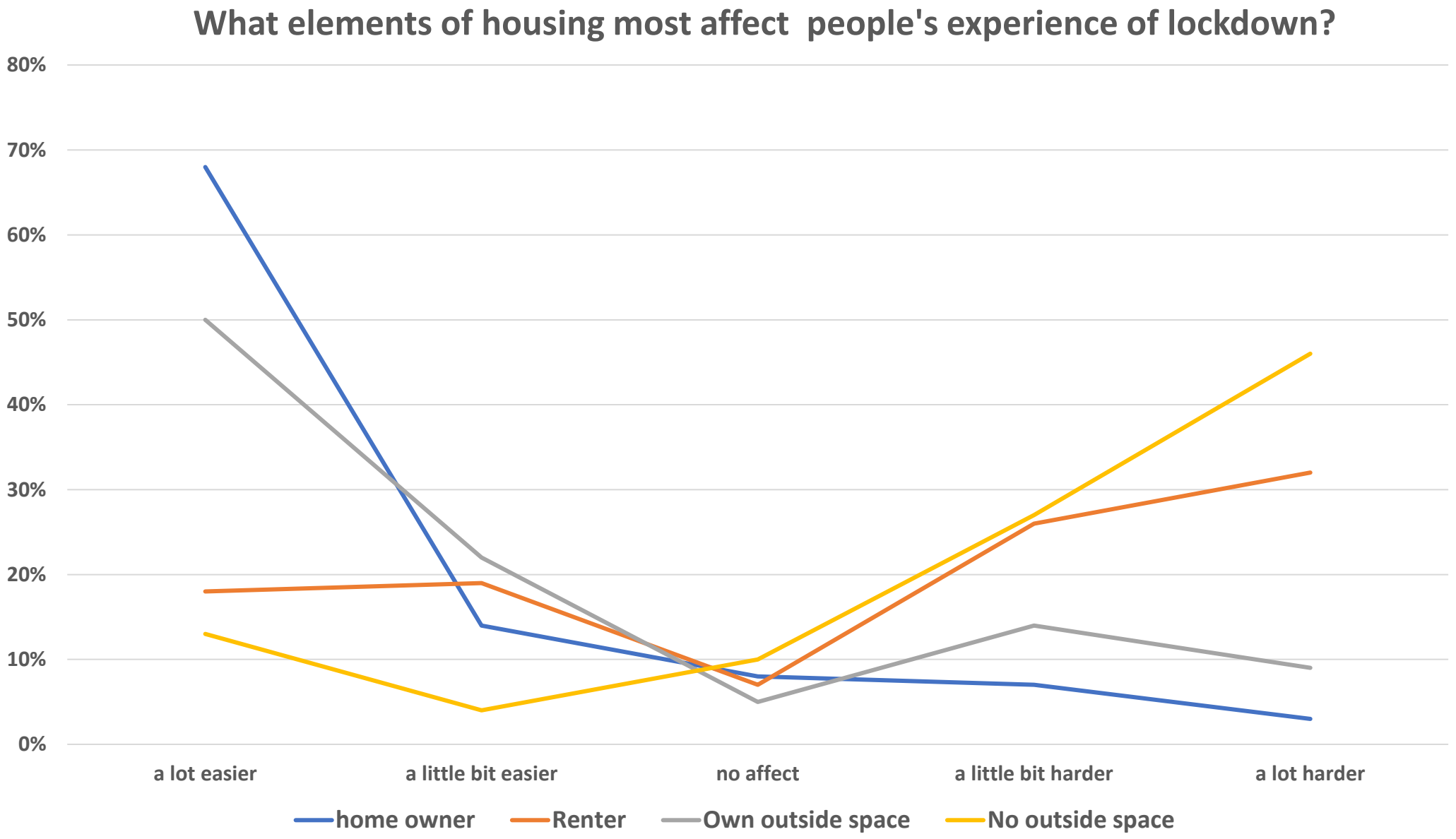


41% of people said their housing situation made lockdown a lot or a little bit harder (102 respondents). This rose to 60% of renters and 73% of those without their own outdoor space.



53% of people said their housing situation made lockdown a lot or a little bit easier (131 respondents). This rose to 82% of people who owned their own home. 77% of people with their own outdoor space said their housing situation made lockdown easier.

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What elements of housing most affect people's experience of lockdown?
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
a lot easier
a little bit easier
no affect
a little bit harder
a lot harder
home owner
Renter
Own outside space
No outside space

What housing issues were respondents dealing with?



40% of renters worried about paying their rent each month and the security of their tenancy.

17% of home owners worried about paying their mortgage each month.

50% of non home-owning respondents would like to buy their own home but can’t afford it.

23% said their home was too small, and 21% were worried that their housing was bad for their wellbeing through being poorly maintained or unsafe.

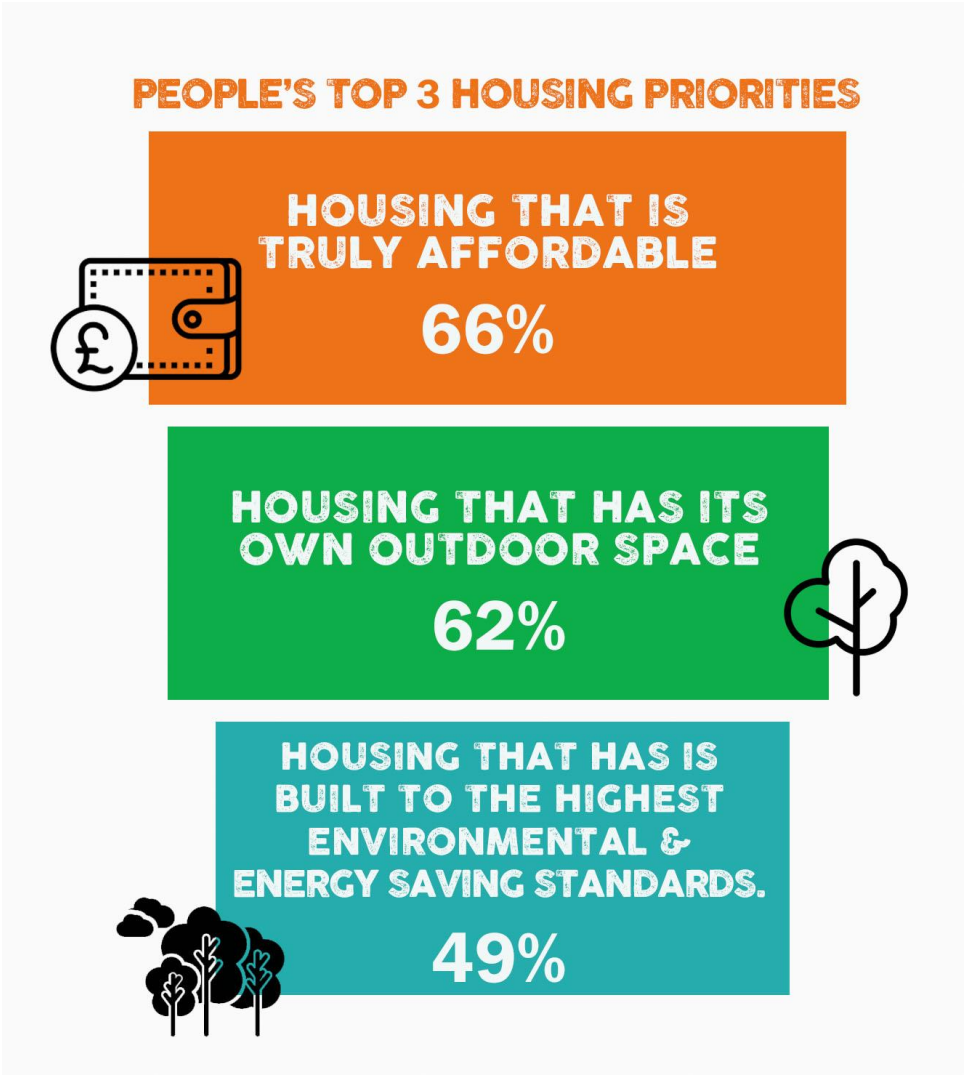
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What did people say was important to them when it came to housing?

Nearly 80% of people were interested in self-build or community led housing (180 respondents)

Around a quarter of respondents said living in an integrated community with mutual support & shared community workspace/workshops was a top housing priority.

18% said not living in a supportive community made lockdown harder.



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The survey received 117 narrative comments.

"I'd love to feel secure in my home. Something affordable with a sense of community and outdoor space."

"The lack of financial security is an overwhelming and terrifying reality."

"Having no outdoor space exacerbates the feeling of confinement and has definitely affected my mood as well as my physical wellbeing."

"Tiny flat, I'm disabled, can't cope."

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The survey received 117 Narrative comments:

We had 25 comments from people telling us in detail how they worried about paying for their housing, and how the Covid-crisis had made that worse through job losses and reduced income.

8 people told us that lock-down was easier because they lived in a supportive community.

8 people told us that their housing felt unsafe.

16 people told us more about how their home was too small for them or their family.

We had 12 comments telling us how access to a garden made lockdown easier

7 people told us they desperately wanted their own garden

and four people told us how much their local green-space meant to them.

ten people told us how they struggled with feelings of confinement because they had no outside space or their home was too small.

12 people told us that they worried a lot about the security of their housing & lockdown had made that worse.

5 people told us having access to a local foodbank had helped.

5 people told us that being a council tenant or part of co-operative housing made lockdown easier.

7 people told us they were struggling with their mental health because of their housing situation & lockdown.

11 people with a health condition or disability talked about how their housing situation & lockdown presented new challenges.

Other things that had an impact:

- Difficult neighbours (4)
- Not being able to get a mortgage (4)
- Having a spare a room to work from home in (2)
- Having a home that is properly equipped for your disability (2)

Lockdown & Housing, Your Stories Survey

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We were overwhelmed by how many people went into detail about their challenges. It is impossible to study the quantative results from direct questions, and read the 117 narrative comments made and not be moved and angered by the insecure, unsafe and unfair situations people found themselves in, in terms of their housing.

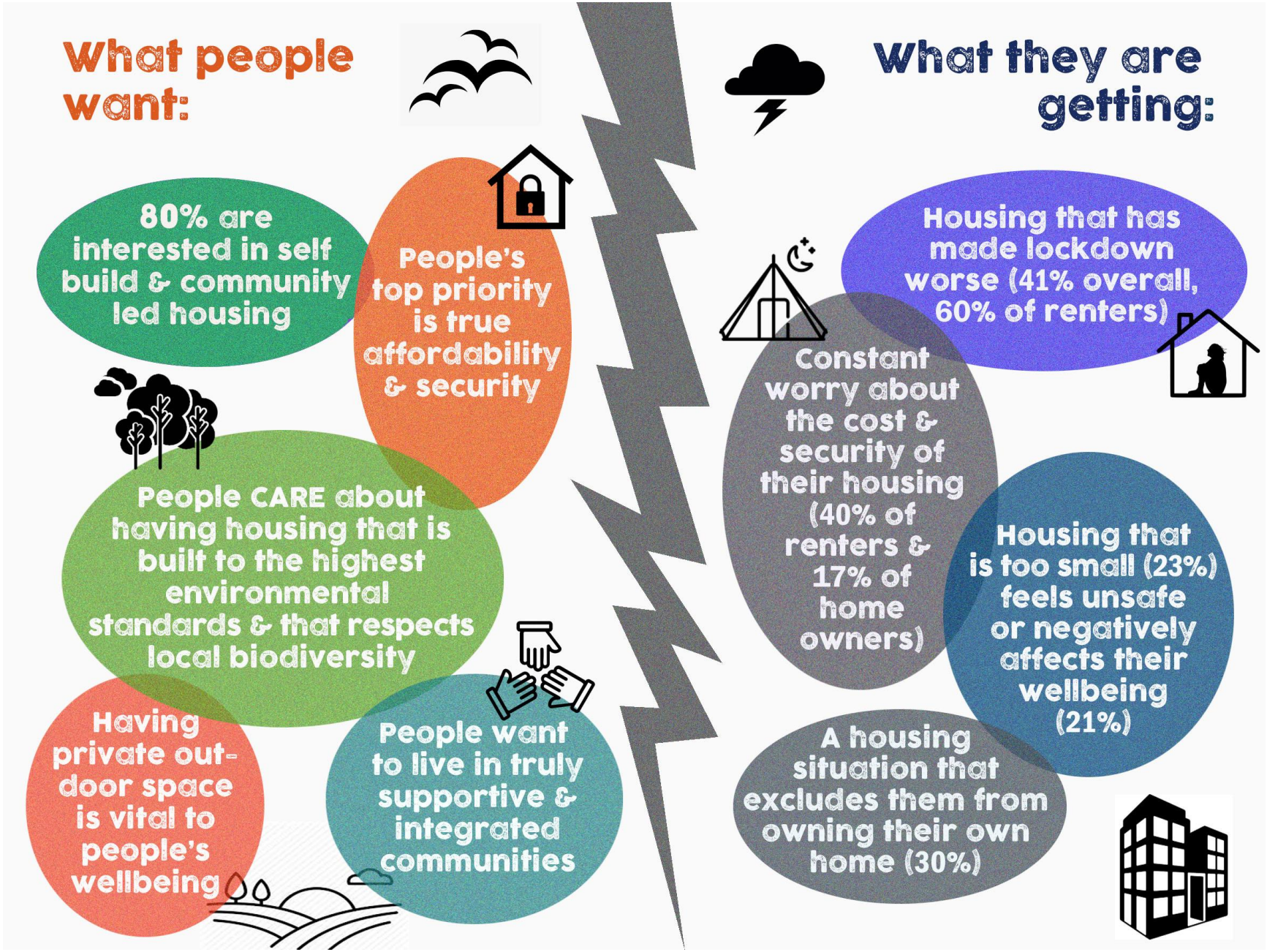
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The results of our survey make it clear that community led housing is a vital component of thriving, resilient communities and the creation of truly affordable and sustainable housing; in a city which is crippled by a housing crisis that affects everyone from rough sleepers to home owners.

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There is a disconnect between what people want, and what they are getting.









www.bhclt.org.uk | www.facebook.com/BaHCLT | info@bhclt.org.uk

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