



Good Practice

Objective

<p>Parish Councillor ‘Peer Mentoring’ events</p>	<p>To help mitigate negative perceptions of affordable housing and to enable sharing of good practice and ideas between parishes</p>
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Detail

Parishes are clustered together to deal with contributions obtained from [section 106 obligations](#). They have been clustered so that the funds can be allocated to meet the relevant needs of the parishes. Through this process we have established a ‘peer mentoring’ approach where experiences and good practice can be shared. This approach has been really beneficial where rural housing development has been developed, highlighting positives and areas that can be improved. It is a fairly new approach and is still to be developed further.

Parish Councils are run by volunteers with limited capacity to undertake activities with other parishes, so methods of improving their access to good practice is paramount. Improving information flow to and between parish councils is important to help raise the profile and counter mis-information and negative perceptions of affordable housing. Parishes have a much better understanding of the experiences gained from each other rather than from a ‘top down’ approach.

Outcomes

An example of implementation of this policy is when one parish had concerns about who the properties on an exception site were to be let to. The perception was that the local authority will allocate the units to ‘anyone’, a similar initial view held by another parish where a scheme had subsequently been completed. This parish was able to allay the fears of the other.

By linking the parishes, the one with the completed scheme could talk about the positive approach to the allocations process and how every unit was allocated to a local person as promoted by the local authority.

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