



Good Practice

Objective

Rolling programme of local housing need surveys for rural communities in conjunction with information events

Programme is undertaken in liaison with the parish council's and local communities to empower them to deliver accommodation that is suitable for their long term needs.

Detail

The Housing Development Officers attend parish council (PC) meetings (with the Registered Provider, if there are known issues around housing management that may be questioned) as part of the enabling function of the local authority. Usually the initial meetings with the PCs are held during the evening, with the community events held late afternoon – early evening.

Community events are held usually to coincide with the housing need survey programme. There is an officer responsible for the entire process of the housing needs surveys programme from distribution to analysis and producing the report. Each parish council receives a copy of the report once it is published and the Housing Development Officers present the report to the parish council to outline key findings, answer queries and explain the next stages. Surveys are also published on the web site for wider reference by residents and potential developers. Admin support is necessary to liaise with parish council's with regards to booking the hall, publicity material within the parish magazine and posters.

Outcomes

Process can assist in bringing forward land opportunities that may be suitable for affordable housing.
 Should assist in filling knowledge gaps on potential development opportunities and risks associated e.g. flooding, access.
 Engages the parish council and community to take responsibility to support planning applications later in the process.
 Accelerate delivery as parish council's and residents will be informed and supportive of the development process.
 Raises the awareness of the affordability issues and how it relates to their particular parish and reduces the negativity of affordable housing.

Update – 2012 Text updated

[Enabling process in rural areas
\(including Housing Need Surveys\)](#)

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Rural Affordable Housing
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