



Rural Housing Partnership

Objective

<p>Hampshire Alliance for Rural Affordable Housing</p>	<p>To address the need for affordable housing in the villages of Hampshire; working to ensure local people are able to afford to live in the places where they were brought up, work or have family connections.</p>
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Detail

Hampshire Alliance for Rural Affordable Housing ([HARAH](#)) grew out of the steering group for the Hampshire Rural Housing Enablers (RHEs), which had been meeting for 4 years to steer the work of the RHEs. The members are: The Hampshire Rural Housing Enablers, based at [Community Action Hampshire](#), Homes and Communities Agency; six rural local authorities in Hampshire (Basingstoke and Deane; East Hampshire; Hart; New Forest; Test Valley; and Winchester); Hampshire County Council; New Forest National Park Authority.

[HydeMartlet](#) is the development partner following a comprehensive selection process. The contract was renewed in 2008 until March 2011. Advantages of the single development partner include a dedicated team, who have built on rural expertise and knowledge; and economies and efficiencies through working across the whole area with a single local contractor, Drew Smith.

Although HARAH was established primarily as a rural housing delivery vehicle, it has developed a strategic role, influencing planning and housing policy co-ordination. The HARAH Members’ Board, set up by the Chief Executive/Leaders Group comprises the Portfolio Holders for Housing and Planning of each of the Local Authorities, a County Councillor, the Chief Executive of the National Park Authority and key HARAH officers and plays an important strategic and influencing role.

Details (cont.)

By working together, costs and resources can be shared, thus increasing capacity and knowledge: Partners share the cost of the Rural Housing Enablers; the Strategic Housing Officer provides capacity across the partnership; HARAHA has shared policies and protocols, a [DVD](#) and a starter pack for rural communities; research and good practice are shared across the partnership to improve delivery.

Delivery of rural housing has improved over time. We have a pipeline of schemes across Hampshire, maintaining a flow of rural homes. 16 projects have been completed, comprising 154 homes, of which 62 homes were completed in the past year. 3 schemes are on site (24 homes), and a further 3 schemes (41 homes) have planning applications submitted. More schemes are in the pipeline.

As the HARAHA Partnership has grown in size and influence, support and political buy-in have increased and this has resulted in a higher profile for rural housing

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