



Good Practice

Objective

Designated planner for rural schemes	To meet the need for consistency of approach and understanding of rural schemes.
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Detail

New Forest District Council (NFDC) is a member of [Hampshire Alliance of Rural Affordable Housing](#) (HARAH) which works with Rural Housing Enablers (RHEs) and a Registered Provider (RP) preferred partner to develop housing on rural sites. The RHEs and the RP were conscious of the difference in knowledge and approaches to rural housing demonstrated by planners within the Development Management team. In order to achieve a consistency of approach and develop a relationship with the planning authority a dedicated planner was identified to take forward all HARAH schemes.

The Strategic Housing Team has responsibility for ensuring that rural affordable housing is delivered in the NFDC area, including within the National Park. In order to achieve success it has been important for the team to build relationships with planning colleagues both in policy and development management, this has led to a greater sharing of information and an ability to overcome barriers in the process.

Outcomes

The links between the Strategic Housing team and the planning department have strengthened significantly with greater understanding of opportunities and constraints on both sides.

Affordable housing is a corporate aim of the authority and as such gets the attention it deserves across the Council leading to a positive culture for affordable housing to be considered.

Before having a dedicated planner there had been no development of affordable rural housing in the New Forest for some time, we now have three schemes in the pipeline.

In addition the strategic housing team has monthly meetings with the RHE and a dedicated planner for the National Park which has led to increased possibilities of development within the Park.

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Rural Affordable Housing
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