



Factsheet

Rural Housing Needs Surveys

Wiltshire Community-Led Housing is an independent support service for organisations who want to learn more about Community-Led Housing in Wiltshire and Swindon.

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Rural Housing Needs Surveys



Housing in Rural Areas

Many rural areas are facing specific local challenges including the provision of affordable homes, an ageing population, rural isolation and reduced accessibility. Rural communities make up 50% of the population of Wiltshire, living in 95% of the geographic area. In rural areas, affordable housing may be developed in the built-up area of a parish or sometimes on rural exception sites for affordable housing only, in locations that would not normally be approved for building homes.

Parish councils are encouraged to undertake rural housing needs surveys to understand the need for housing in their areas. The surveys are produced by Wiltshire Council and the outcomes of the survey can be used to understand whether there is a local need for affordable housing in parishes and, if so, of what size and type.

Who Should Complete the Survey?

The survey is completed by households who live in the parish area. The survey can also be completed by households who live outside the parish but have a local connection such as:

- Those currently living in/have continuously lived in the parish for the last year.
- Those with a close relative who has continuously lived in the parish for five or more years.
- Those who are in, or have, an offer of permanent employment or who have a fixed-term contract for a minimum of one year in the parish.
- Those who are self-employed and work predominantly in the parish.

Households within the parish are invited to pass on details of the survey to friends and/or relatives who

have had to move away from the parish and would like to move back.

A household can be made up of:

- One person living alone or;
- A group of people (not necessarily related) who are living at the same address with shared housekeeping, such as sharing either a living room or at least one meal a day.

Aims of the Survey

The main aim of the rural housing needs survey is to determine the need for affordable housing, together with other forms of housing such as adapted and/or housing with care or support.

The housing needs survey will assist in building an understanding of what is felt to be needed by the community in terms of housing.

About the Survey

The survey is split into two main parts:

Part one - Local household current occupancy and what type of housing would be supported in the parish in future.

Part two - Should only be completed if a household or any member/s of a household need to move into or within the parish now or in the near future.

If you need help with a housing needs survey, please contact us by email:

info@wiltshirecommunityledhousing.org.uk