

Dear Parish Councillors,

The Wiltshire & Swindon Rural Housing Needs Project

Are you concerned about the lack of affordable housing in your parish ? Are you worried that young people cannot afford local housing prices, and will drift away from your community? Or that high house prices keep out `key workers` such as teachers, nurses and tradespeople ? Or indeed, that it is difficult for older people to downsize to smaller properties ?

Community First Wiltshire & Swindon is now offering an advice and support service to help rural communities meet such housing needs through a **Rural Housing Enabler Project**. With new government funding it has appointed a small team of **rural housing enablers** to work with local towns and parishes to find ways to build homes to **meet local needs**.

These ways include working with housing associations or similar bodies to build a small number of homes on `**exception sites**`, sites that wouldn't normally be given permission for general housing, but can be allowed to build affordable homes, taking advantage of land prices well below market value. Or a proportion of affordable housing may be secured within a larger private development through a **Section 106** Agreement. Or you may already be aware that Community First and Wiltshire Community Land Trust offer support for setting up community -led initiatives such as a **Community Land Trust**.

Now we are able to offer advice on these and other ways of delivering affordable homes for local people. So we would like to know which small towns and villages in Wiltshire & Swindon would seriously like to take up this offer, either through a special meeting with yourselves, or an area meeting located at a venue reasonably close to you, depending the number of positive responses.

A word of warning. Our current funding is for a very limited period, up to the end of March 2025. So the sooner we can get started the better.

Please reply with answers to the questions below:

- Yes we would like to embark on a rural housing project and would like to arrange a meeting with a Rural Housing Enabler, either individually or through an area event.....

- Please state briefly the key housing issue/s in your town or village....

- We are already embarking on a rural housing project but would welcome further advice...

- We do not wish to take part ...

- Any other comments ...

Please reply to: info@wiltshirecommunityledhousing.org.uk