



## Affordable Rural Housing for Local People

### Introduction

It is widely recognised that those living on low or modest incomes in rural communities face real difficulties when trying to find a home of their own within the village.

A number of issues come into play not least the high house prices against lower income levels in rural areas and the planning legislation that has sought to protect the environment and villages from over development.



Alongside these factors is the loss of tied accommodation as agriculture has become more mechanised thus reducing the manpower required. Furthermore Right to Buy enabled council tenants to purchase their home at discounted rates without these houses being replaced, thereby reducing the number of properties available for rent.

It is not always apparent that there is a demand for affordable housing or the benefits of developing a small scheme for local people in terms of helping to sustain local services.

This pack has been put together to provide information about affordable housing for people in need with a connection to the parish. It sets out the stages and issues around this and will give a realistic overview of what is involved.

It may be useful as a tool to open discussions about the need for affordable housing and as a handbook to aid understanding of the various stages and roles of those involved in the development of a scheme of affordable rural housing.