



PRESS STATEMENT

Parish planning Housing Needs Assessment

Members of Heytesbury Imber & Knook Parish Council have recently made a request to Wiltshire Council's Development Officers to carry out a rural housing needs survey which will establish if there is a proven need for affordable housing in the parish.

Such surveys assist in identifying those areas with the greatest housing problems so that scarce financial resources can be put to best use.

The Development Officers work closely with rural communities, housing associations, local authorities and landowners to meet the affordable housing needs of rural communities.

'Housing need' can be defined as the need for an individual or household to obtain housing that is suitable to their circumstances. It implies that there are problems or limitations with the household's current housing arrangements and that the household is unable to afford or to access suitable accommodation in the private sector. Such problems may be concerned with housing costs, size, location, layout, state of repair, or security of tenure either immediately or in the future.

In order to carry out the housing needs survey, questionnaires will be delivered to the Parish Council for distribution at the end of April and during May these will be delivered to all homes within the Parish.

To encourage a good response, households are given a pre-paid envelope in which to return the completed survey. The council applies the data protection policy to responses, ensuring that all survey responses remain anonymous.

Residents will be asked to return the completed surveys in the pre-paid envelopes potentially sometime in June. The forms will be recorded and analysed by the Service Development Officers at Wiltshire Council.

All households will be asked to complete the first section of the form. If a household considers itself in need, or likely to be in need of affordable housing

within the next five years, it is invited to complete the rest of the survey.

The lead Councillor for this project is Vanessa Sturmeay who can be contacted for further information by email: vsturmeay@hotmail.co.uk and regular updates will be provided to keep all residents informed of progress.

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For more information contact Heather Parks, Clerk, Heytesbury, Imber & Knook Parish Council. Tel: 01985 212340 email: parishclerk@heytesburyparish.co.uk