

Community Engagement for New Local Affordable Housing

To pursue a 'rural exception site' that will deliver affordable housing for a community and to get the support of housing enablers and funders, it is very important that the local community is engaged in the process from an early stage.

It is good practice to involve as many groups of people as possible, particularly those who are often considered hard to reach; for example the elderly, young people, ethnic groups and other minority groups.

You need to clearly articulate the purpose and aims of the engagement and what you hope to achieve.

Ideally any consultation should include the following (this is likely to result in several consultation stages as the project progresses):

- An explanation of the process for producing a Parish Profile, which will provide a picture of local housing need, setting out the types of data being considered and explaining how the findings will be used.
- The 'results' of the Parish Profile – i.e. what insights and conclusions have been reached.
- Exploration of any other ideas for local community-led housing, or evidence to support (or not) the insights and conclusions that have been reached.
- Some examples of other locally led affordable housing schemes from either the SDNPA or a rural housing enabling body
- If there is general support for new affordable housing for the Parish, the exploration of ideas for suitable sites and / or any other local knowledge of the area which would help inform the site selection process.

There is already lots of helpful information available on community engagement and 'community led' housing and how to progress it - for example visit:

[About us - MyCommunity](#) and [Affordable and community-led housing - MyCommunity](#)

[Community Land Trust Network | Homepage](#)

[Community Led Housing | Action in rural Sussex](#)

[Communities and Rural Affordable Housing - Action Hampshire](#)

When you have carried out your engagement work, it is helpful to provide a summary of your findings and what the main local concerns are to the body you are working with to deliver the site i.e. Community Land Trust, Rural Housing Enabler and/or Registered Provider.