

## **Stisted Parish Council - Call for Sites for Local Needs Homes.**

In Spring 2020, Stisted Neighbourhood Plan & Parish Council supported a parish wide housing needs survey (posted to every household) by an independent Rural Housing Enabler (RHE) from the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE). This survey identified that there is a need for a small number of homes for local people in Stisted and the Parish Council and RCCE are exploring how a small scheme of around four affordable homes for local people could be brought forward. This may include a range of homes, depending on the needs of local people.

'Local' generally means a person who is;

- Currently resident in the parish
- Was previously resident in the parish
- Is permanently employed in the parish
- Is connected by close family still living in the parish

Should the affordable housing go ahead, the Parish Council are keen to pursue a 'Rural Exception Site'. These schemes are built on land which would not usually be allocated by the planning authority for housing but *can* be considered for affordable housing to meet a proven local need. These must be sites that are contiguous with or adjacent to existing village settlement boundaries.

The aim of affordable housing is to provide homes for people who cannot afford to buy or rent a home on the open market. The term includes rented and affordable home ownership. New affordable homes help sustain communities by offering local families, couples and single people the chance to stay living in the place where they have strong connections. This can be those who aspire to their first / independent home or those who wish to downsize.

The proposed homes will be for rent and shared ownership sale and can never be sold on the open market, remaining as homes only for locals forever. **The Parish Council is currently looking at possible suitable sites in the Parish and there will be full Consultation on any proposals.**

We would like to hear from Landowners who might have a suitable site for an affordable housing proposal. Ideally, it would be a site of around a quarter of one acre in size. As this is an exception site for local people, the land does not hold the same value as 'normal' or open market development. It is often put forward to support local needs and would be at an exception site rate or in some cases, land is gifted as a legacy to the Community by landowners who wish to support such projects.

This call for sites is part of the Neighbourhood Plan process. Any development will be put to a parish referendum prior to any decision, the decision to go ahead is the villagers' decision.

Please submit details of your site to the Parish Council Clerk ([stistedparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stistedparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk))

**Deadline 30 June 2021.**