



HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

May 2017

Dear Householder

Please complete this survey and return in the envelope provided as it will provide vital evidence of the need of younger people wishing to live in the Parish and older people who, while considering down-sizing, do not wish to leave the parish. It is an important part of the Ash Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Events organised by the Parish Council have suggested there might be a need for additional affordable housing in Ash Parish so residents, who cannot afford to buy or rent locally, will not be forced to move away. This type of affordable housing is also known as local needs housing; they are homes that can be rented or part bought (shared ownership) from a Housing Association. The reason for providing local needs housing is to help local people of all ages who would like to stay or return to their parish and contribute to the village services that still exist. This includes people who own their current property, or rent privately or through Dover District Council's East Kent Housing Association or another housing association.

Depending on the outcome of this survey, we may try to find a suitable site within the parish of Ash.

The most likely type of site would be what is known as a 'Rural Exception Site', within or on the edge of the village whereby:

- All homes on the site are owned by a Housing Association
- Houses are either rented or part-sold (shared ownership) to tenants
- Only households with a genuine local connection are eligible to be tenants/part owners

Once a site is found, a village consultation event will be held so that residents of the parish can view and discuss the proposals and put their views forward.

We are sending out this Housing Needs Survey to assess the demand and gauge the level of support a small scheme might have in our community. We are doing so with the approval of Dover District Council, whose housing officers have approved this questionnaire. Tessa O'Sullivan, the Rural Housing Enabler from Action with Communities in Rural Kent is assisting us to carry out this survey. **The survey will be analysed by the Rural Housing Enabler, with all information given being kept confidential.** She will then give a summary report to the Parish Council.

This is a very important issue, so please take time to fill in this survey. Even if no one in your household has a housing need, we want to know your views.

Please return this form using the FREEPOST envelope provided.

If any further information or additional questionnaires are required please contact the Rural Housing Enabler on 01303 813 790.

Yours sincerely

Graham Foat
Chairman to Ash Parish Council