

Cropwell Bishop - Housing for Local People

Since 2005, Rushcliffe Borough Council has been a member of the Trent Valley Partnership, a project being carried out with Midlands Rural Housing and Waterloo Housing Group, which aims to provide housing that is affordable to people on low incomes, who have strong local connections to their parish, but cannot afford to buy or rent housing at open market prices.

Affordable housing can be provided for young families, first time buyers, or the elderly and disabled. The housing is provided on a shared ownership basis or at an affordable rent, allowing people to get a first step on the housing ladder. In rural villages, affordable housing is specifically provided for local people and planning requirements are attached which ensure that the properties continue to benefit local people in perpetuity. Shared ownership properties can be sold on, but must be sold to people with a local connection.

Lack of suitable affordable housing in rural areas is a national problem and the Borough Council has long been concerned that high house prices in villages may force people to move away from their communities. In 2010, twelve affordable properties were developed on Barlow's Close, followed by a further scheme of twelve properties in 2014 on Sheldon Close. Both schemes have proved successful in helping local people to remain living in the village.

Your Parish Council has agreed to support Midlands Rural Housing carrying out a new housing needs survey of Cropwell Bishop. Survey questionnaires will be delivered to every household during late September alongside the Cropwell News and the Parish Council would like to encourage people to complete and return their responses so that we can accurately gauge the level of need. A 'Freepost' envelope will be provided so that responses can be posted directly to Midlands Rural Housing. Once the results are known, the Parish Council will work closely with the Trent Valley Partnership to try to resolve any housing issues that the survey might identify.

This is an opportunity for local residents to influence future housing requirements in the village, so don't forget to complete your survey questionnaire and return it by the closing date to let us know what you think. If residents know of people who have had to leave the parish to find suitable affordable housing and would be interested in returning to live here, please make them aware of the survey.

Additional forms and information will be available from Midlands Rural Housing on 0300 1234 009 or by email at enquiries@midlandsrural.org.uk