



Housing crisis - what housing crisis?

Our Parish is predominately situated within the fabulous New Forest National Park with its wonderful heathlands, forest trails and native ponies *and* astronomical house prices. The New Forest is officially the least affordable National Park in the UK. If we take a closer look at our Parish in the last year the average house price was around £580,000 and in the last 5 years only 4 houses were sold at a price of £350,000 or less.

So, with average house prices coming in at around 15 times average earnings, how can young local families aspire to live in the area in which they grew up? The answer is simple – most can't. Currently, there are a number of multigenerational families in the Parish where children and grandchildren have moved in with parents and, in many other cases, locals have had no other choice than to move away.

The Parish Council is concerned at the situation and is investigating how we might create affordable housing *specifically for locals* in our Parish. Our next steps include i) identifying suitable site(s) where affordable housing could be built. So, if you are in a position to sell or gift land or know of land that may be appropriate for such an initiative please inform the Parish Clerk, and ii) undertaking a housing needs survey in early 2020

In the mean time, if you or someone you know would like, but can't afford, a home in our Parish please visit homes4wiltshire.co.uk where you can register your details and apply to the Housing Register. The website will also give you more information on the various types of affordable housing currently available in the county.

We are at the very early stages of this important project and we'll try our very best to keep you informed and will consult widely and appropriately. The key message is that this initiative will help local people who have tangible ties to our community – we want to help maintain a mixed community within the Parish which is sustainable and inclusive.

Any questions? Please contact the Parish Clerk on 07421 354039 or via email at clerk@landford.org.uk