

Dear Resident,

Local Housing Needs Survey

Sevenoaks District Council has committed to undertake Local Housing Needs surveys in all parishes to assess whether there might be a need for “local needs” housing, so that residents who cannot afford to buy or rent locally, are not forced to move away. Such housing may also help those who have already had to move away make a return to their family support networks.

The surveys also aim to find out if there are older people or people with disabilities in the parish who would like to downsize and/or move to housing more suitable for their needs. This includes people who are owner-occupiers, as well as those with other current living arrangements.

Rosemary Selling, the Rural Housing Enabler from Action with Communities in Rural Kent, is assisting SDC by carrying out this survey. It will assess whether there is a need for a small scheme of local needs housing in our parish and gauge the level of local support any such scheme might have. Please be assured all personal information will be kept confidential.

This survey was last undertaken in 2015 and so the information is somewhat out of date. The results of this year’s survey will also provide useful information to feed into the Neighbourhood Plan which is being prepared for Fawkham. Once the results have been analysed, Rosemary will provide a summary report to the Parish Council and Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, and this will then be publicly available.

Depending on the outcome of the survey, we may consider looking for suitable sites within the parish where we could build new local needs homes. If any new homes were to be built:

- applicants with a genuine, strong local connection to the parish would have top priority at all times, and
- homes would remain available, in perpetuity, to meet local housing needs.

Please take a few minutes to answer the survey. We would like to know your views even if you do not need alternative housing, and you do not need to answer all the questions. If you have family members who live elsewhere but who would like to return to live in the parish, please make them aware of the survey: further copies for this purpose can be obtained from Rosemary (telephone: 01303 764645, or email: rosemary.selling@ruralkent.org.uk).

If you have any other queries, please do contact Rosemary.

Please return your completed survey form in the Freepost envelope provided by **24th November**. It’s really important we hear from as many residents as possible, so that the results give us an accurate picture of whether there is a local housing need in the parish, and what the level of support is for such a scheme.

Thank you,

Laura Evans
Chair, Fawkham Parish Council