

July 2021 Update from The Housing and Infrastructure Group for Dunsford Parish Council

Summary written by Cllr Paul French

We continue to look to bring forward affordable housing in Dunsford on one of the potential rural exception sites identified and are in talks with respective landowners. We wish to bring forward affordable homes that will meet the local housing need. We have some information on housing need, but as things progress, it might be necessary to go back out to the community to ensure that what we have planned remains relevant.

The homes that we hope to build will be subject to a strict local connection criteria. This means that people who have a strong connection to the parish will be prioritised for these homes. This typically is based on people who live in the parish, have lived in the parish, and/or work or have family in the parish. If and when the homes come forward, the qualifying criteria will be made available. We hope that by delivering these new homes, we will be able to help people to remain and thrive in Dunsford.

You may have heard of something called First Homes. This has been quite heavily featured in the press recently and has been promoted by the government. First Homes are another form of affordable housing and are the government's preferred discounted market tenure. They are encouraging that at least 25% of all affordable housing units delivered by developers through planning obligations should be First Homes. However, the site is to be delivered by Hastoe Housing Association as 100% affordable and First Homes does not apply in designated rural areas. This means that it is not proposed that the affordable housing scheme in Dunsford will include any First Homes. It is likely to feature predominantly rented accommodation, and dependent on housing need, some shared ownership homes.

P. French July 2021