

**May 2021 update Housing and Infrastructure group for Dunsford Parish Council**  
**Summary written by Cllr Paul French**

Following our previous update on the affordable housing project, the two representatives from the Housing and Infrastructure Committee have now met with Hastoe Housing Association to discuss the proposals and can provide an update on the ongoing process. Hastoe are currently the developer interested in taking forward the proposals and the PC delegates at the meeting were very encouraged that they share our vision of providing high quality, environmentally sustainable affordable housing which is in keeping with the overall character of the village.

The process is currently in the viability stage and when this is complete Hastoe will engage some architects to see what could be achieved on the site and to develop some outline proposals. We would then look for these to be developed with input from the Parish and wider consultation. This would be in advance of any planning application being submitted.

Initial discussions with the District Council and Developer suggest that the proposed development would not need to be supported by open market housing although some shared ownership properties could be considered.

We are keen to ensure that the people of Dunsford have their say on any proposals and are developing a communication strategy to make sure this happens. There are many possible ways of doing this, public meetings, maildrops, questionnaires etc and we would welcome and encourage your views on what you think is most effective.

In the meantime, consideration is being given to repeating the Housing Needs Survey to reaffirm if there still remains a Housing need in the village and also accompanying this with a set of questions to reaffirm the support in the community for development to meet this need.

Currently the project is re-engaging with the site owners to confirm their willingness to sell. If there is a positive outcome from those discussions, various viability tests will be carried out. Before any final decision is made by the Planning Authority there will be an opportunity for discussion with the residents of Dunsford to allow people to express their views.