**August 2021 Update from the Housing and Infrastructure Group for Dunsford Parish Council**

Summary written by Cllr Paul French

At a recent meeting, the of the Dunsford Affordable Housing project team had the opportunity to meet with some architects who we could work with to develop proposals for the scheme. The team felt it was vital that whoever we work with has a good understanding of rural sites and ensuring that any design is sensitive and reflective of its surroundings. We also want to ensure that the partner we select has a strong understanding and commitment to energy efficiency. The two architects that we met gave us a background on their practices and walked us through their approach to this type of development, sharing examples of similar projects undertaken elsewhere. Both seemed highly competent and have given the team confidence that the approach would be the right one if we are to proceed. It is still early in the process, so a selection has not yet been made, but once further progress has been made with securing a site, we will engage further with an architect to start looking at what could be achieved on the site.

As we go through this process, we want to take the community with us. Though many of you had the chance to have your say and highlight what housing you may wish to see come forward via the housing needs survey in 2019, we are keen that we capture all views and give you the opportunity to have your say and help to positively influence what we plan to do. With that in mind, in the coming months we are likely to go out to you, the community, to give you more information and to gather your feedback. We will do this when we have more certainty over the site and when we have examined any constraints. There will be plentiful opportunity to feed in to the process and help shape the plans. If you have an interest in potentially living in one of the new affordable homes, whether you have previously let us know through the housing needs survey or not, it is important that you join the local housing register. In a future update we will provide more information on just how to do this, but if in the meantime you would like some help, please get in touch.

 P. French August 2021