

NEWS OF THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEME, MILTON-UNDER-WYCHWOOD

Many people will be aware that your Parish Council is keen for affordable housing to be provided for the people of Milton-under-Wychwood and that the Rural Housing Trust has been asked to assist the Parish Council. The Rural Housing Trust is a charity which aims to promote and provide village housing through involvement with parish councils.

In March an open meeting was held in the village hall when the Parish Council and a representative from the Rural Housing Trust explained about the proposed scheme in Green Lane and answered questions. This meeting was extremely well attended and Registration of Interest forms were available for anyone interested in applying. A sufficient number were completed and returned for the Parish Council to decide that there is enough demand to go ahead with the scheme. It is not too late for new applicants to register.

For those who are not aware of the details of the scheme, here is some information.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Anyone with 12 months current residence or full-time employment in the parish, three years previous residence or close relatives resident for three years. Applicants should also be in housing need and unable to afford property on the open market locally.

HOW MANY HOUSES WILL THERE BE AND WHAT WILL THEY BE LIKE?

There will be up to eight houses. There will be both two and three bedroom houses. Parking spaces are provided but not garages. All the houses will have central heating, double glazing and gardens.

ARE THE HOUSES FOR SALE OR RENT?

The predominant need is for rented houses, so most of the houses will be for rent. These houses will be owned and managed by Sovereign Housing Association.

Some of the houses, however will be for sale on a subsidised shared ownership basis. This means that people can buy a share of the value of the house – prices cannot be decided until all costs of building are known, but they will probably be between £38,000 and £42,000. There is no weekly rent to pay in addition to the purchase price. A leaflet is available for those who would like further details. The shared ownership houses will be sold by English Rural Housing Association, a housing association set up by the Rural Housing Trust.

(continued overleaf)

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?

Most importantly, we are waiting to hear the results of the Local Plan Inquiry. We will then know whether or not the land will be made available for affordable housing. The Rural Housing Trust has appointed an architect to design a layout, which will be agreed with the Planners and Parish Council. The scheme will then be put out to tender and an application made for planning permission. If planning consent is granted, it will be subject to a section 106 Agreement, which ensures that priority must always be given to people from the village.

While the scheme is being built, applicants will be interviewed by the two housing associations. The successful applicants will be able to move into their new homes as soon as they are completed.

Lynne Sampson, Housing Officer, The Rural Housing Trust

COSTS OF FUTURE REPAIRS TO HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, ASCOTT

Holy Trinity Church at Ascott has been advised by its surveyor that it will need some costly repairs over the next few years. The most urgent repairs needed are:-

- (a) to the tower roof and to the wooden bell-tower on top of that roof
(Estimated cost £13,000).
- (b) to various cast-iron hoppers and drainpipes
(Estimated cost £2,500).

Other works will also be necessary later. These are:-

- (a) the re-wiring of the Church and the provision of suitable power-points and adequate lighting (roughly estimated cost £2,500).
- (b) repairs to the windows, their stone frames and ironwork
(roughly estimated cost £24,000).

So during the next five years the Church will be seeking to raise around £42,000 for the preservation of its fabric. The Parochial Church Council is beginning to approach various bodies for grants. There will be more local appeals in due course.

Timothy Thornton.

ASCOTT FETE

SATURDAY, JULY 20th from 2 p.m. on Ascott Village Green

in aid of Church funds

STALLS - MORRIS DANCERS - REFRESHMENTS

ATTRACTIONS FOR YOUNG AND OLD