**FORDCOMBE AND PENSHURST AFFORDABLE LOCAL HOUSING -**

**UPDATE ON PREFERRED SITES**

For many years there has been no additional rented affordable housing for local people in our parish. All communities like ours benefit from having young children to keep  
the village school going and a balance of working adults and senior citizens.  
  
As part of the Housing Needs Survey carried out in 2021 and the subsequent “call for sites”, 12 potential sites were suggested by parishioners and landowners. Of these, six were either unavailable or were deemed unsuitable by Sevenoaks District Council planning department.  
  
The Parish Council visited the 6 remaining sites in Penshurst and Fordcombe with our Preferred Housing Providers, the Becket Trust and English Rural Housing, who wanted to use sites that were likely to be financially viable and in suitable locations. Two sites were preferred by them, both in Penshurst.  
Becket Trust’s preferred option would be for 4 to 6 houses at the Randalls site. English Rural Housing’s preferred option would be for 6 to 8 houses on the New Road site.

The Housing Needs Survey identified a need for 16 new homes. The Parish Council do not consider that this number should be accommodated on a single site, nor would we be looking to build the entire 16. Rather, we would be looking to provide a TOTAL of around 12 one and two bedroomed properties across the 2 sites. At this stage, no decision has been made as to what might go on either site~~.~~

Before going any further, the Parish Council and our Preferred Housing Providers would like to hear your views on the 2 preferred locations. You can either email Mrs Evelyn Divall, Clerk to the Council, at [penshurstpc@outlook.com](mailto:penshurstpc@outlook.com) or [d.divall@btinternet.com](mailto:d.divall@btinternet.com) or write to her at Windmill Farm, Chevening Road, Chipstead, Sevenoaks, TN13 2SA. We would appreciate hearing your views by Friday 22 March

Personal details i.e your name and address will remain strictly confidential to the Clerk and will not be shared with any of the Parish Councillors.

The maps show the location of the sites. The full Sites Assessment Report by Sevenoaks District Council is available on the Parish Council Website.