

APPENDIX 4

Local Housing Needs Surveys

Introduction

1. The Council has recognised a substantial demand for affordable housing in the District, particularly in the villages and small rural communities where local authority housing provision has been very limited. In order to quantify the general scale of this need, the Council commissioned a District-wide household survey carried out by the University of Sussex, and with the full cooperation and support of the Town and Parish Councils. The results of the survey have been published in the document 'Rural Housing Need in South East England, Wealden District, East Sussex, 1988-91', and a summary is included in the following table.

2. However, it is important to treat the survey results as an initial indication only of perceived or anticipated housing need and not an immediate requirement for the provision of new dwellings. Experience has shown that further work is needed locally to identify the actual individuals and families in need and the size, tenure and cost of housing related to their need and income. This further work can be carried out by either the Council's Housing Department or individual Housing Associations in cooperation with the Parish Councils.

Households in a current need

3. The surveys allowed for a broad definition of current perceived need, including young people needing their own accommodation, elderly people needing special accommodation, families needing more space or needing to be nearer their place of work, or nearer to local amenities and local services.

4. In terms of meeting this perceived need, respondents suggested adapting the present house, purchasing a house on the open market, purchasing a low cost or shared ownership house, or renting from the District Council, a Housing Association or privately.

Households anticipating a need

5. The surveys also enabled respondents to include whether members of the household were likely to require separate accommodation within the next five years. This anticipated need included children expecting to leave home to marry or for other reasons, and elderly family members who may need separate, possibly specialist accommodation for their retirement.

6. The broad basis of this category has resulted in a relatively large number of households anticipating such a need. However, this will not necessarily result in a requirement for large numbers of new dwellings, as some people may be able to compete in the local housing market or may decide to move away from the Parish, especially younger members of the family seeking higher education or job opportunities. Clearly, the extent and nature of the actual housing need will only become evident in future years.

Households wishing to return to the Parish

7. Finally, the surveys asked whether any members of the immediate family had left the Parish because of a lack of suitable accommodation and now wished to move back.

Local Housing Needs - Parish Surveys

Parish/Town (Based on former Boundaries)	Households in current need	Households anticipating need	Households wishing to return to Parish
Alciston	2	4	3
Alfriston	10	24	8
Arlington	12	23	6
Berwick	3	9	5
Buxted	52	185	30
Chalvington	2	8	2
Chiddingly (1)	17	16	0
Crowborough	203	616	93
Danehill	20	73	13
East Dean	18	46	3
East Hoathly	17	31	8
Fletching	19	53	11
Folkington	1	1	0
Forest Row	72	206	42
Framfield	26	99	13
Frant	18	51	11
Friston	5	10	2
Hadlow Down	9	31	6
Hailsham	170	429	56
Hartfield	30	92	17
Heathfield (Town)	53	172	36
(Rural)	83	251	49
Hellingly (Rural)	46	164	25
Herstmonceux	27	82	13
Hooe	6	14	5
Horam	23	93	17
Isfield	6	20	3
Jevington	3	2	3

Parish/Town (Based on former Boundaries)	Households in current need	Households anticipating need	Households wishing to return to Parish
Laughton	3	21	4
Litlington	4	6	0
Little Horsted	2	8	1
Lullington	0	0	1
Maresfield	43	139	28
Mayfield	47	125	25
Ninfield	16	41	14
Pevensey	47	88	16
Polegate/Willingdon	135	345	51
Ripe	15	25	2
Rotherfield	45	139	26
Selmeston	4	7	2
Uckfield	138	358	66
Wadhurst	98	209	59
Waldron	51	165	17
Warbleton	17	43	18
Wartling	6	25	4
Westdean	0	2	0
Westham	46	113	19
Wilmington	1	2	3
Withyham	73	207	32

Source: 'Rural Housing Need in South East England, Wealden District, East Sussex, 1988-91' published by Wealden District Council 1991, except (1) 'Housing in Chiddingly and Muddles Green, Survey and Report' published by Chiddingly Parish Council February 1988