

David Cairns Esq
Chairman, Turville Parish Council

23 October 2015

Dear David

Can you help us find sites on which 8-10 affordable houses may be built?

The lack of affordable homes in our beautiful corner of England is a problem. We have all observed the changing character of our villages - houses populated by commuters and second homeowners. Whether this benefits the local economy is debatable; what is not debatable is that many local pubs and shops have closed, and that property prices are beyond the means of many local people. As a result, many are forced to move away, breaking up networks of family and friends.

Workers and families aspiring to live, work and grow up and grow old in our communities simply are unable to find homes they can afford. Villages should include a range of income earners and age groups; providing affordable housing on suitable sites creates balanced communities, breathes fresh life into rural villages and can help ensure that local people can stay in their community, whatever their age or circumstances.

Can we find some land on which a small number of affordable houses may be built? Such a development will help our communities by:

- Increasing the number of people supporting local services such as the village shop, the school, the pub, the church and the parish council
- Providing homes for people who carry out essential local services
- Keeping local family and friend networks together
- Sustaining community life

Living in the Chilterns AONB need not be a restriction. Wycombe District Council wishes to protect the rural character and visual amenities of this area. They will not permit any development that would detract from the rural amenity of the area or would be of an inappropriate design and scale for its location.

A small development of homes at the edge of a village would be a good solution, as would a site that is already used for employment or other purposes. Agricultural land may also be appropriate in certain circumstances.

Naturally, I will be very happy to discuss the issues with you and your fellow Parish Councillors at any time, and ask you to circulate this letter widely.

Many thanks

Chris Whitehead

Wycombe District Councillor, Hambleton Valley Ward.