

Sampford Arundel Parish Council

March 2010

Dear resident

Future affordable housing for Sampford Arundel parish

The Parish Council has decided to work with the Community Council for Somerset, an independent charity, to complete a Housing Needs Survey for Sampford Arundel parish. Enclosed are notes on the project and the survey form.

The Housing Needs Survey takes the form of a questionnaire and aims to identify the current housing needs of local people who are struggling to afford to buy or rent a home in the parish. The problems of high house prices and the shortage of affordable housing in rural areas are jointly recognised as being a major problem that affects rural communities across England. It is increasingly the case that people on low or restricted incomes are being left with no option but to live in accommodation which is overcrowded, expensive or unsuitable or they are simply unable to remain living in or return to live in their parish.

If you or a member of your household is in housing need, or will require access to affordable housing within the next five years, please complete the **entire form** and return it in the **enclosed prepaid envelope**. If you are suitably housed and will not need a change of housing in the next five years then you **do not** need to complete the form. If you know of a person living elsewhere that has a **connection** to the parish and would like to live in the parish then they will need to complete their **own form**. Additional forms can be obtained from the Community Council for Somerset (*see contact details on the enclosed survey form*).

A prepaid envelope is included so that the form can be returned direct to the Community Council. **All information will be treated in the strictest confidence and only Community Council for Somerset staff will see the completed forms to enable them to compile the final report. After the results have been analysed and the report has been written, the survey forms will be destroyed.** The report will provide general numbers; trends, comments and ideas about housing need but will not include any names or addresses. If any affordable homes are developed, priority will be given to residents of Sampford Arundel parish or people with a connection to the parish on Taunton Deane Borough Council's (TDBC) Housing Register. If you have a need for affordable housing, in addition to completing the attached survey form, you should also register on TDBC Housing Register without delay. Please telephone TDBC Housing Options Team (**01823 – 356356**).

We really need your support for this project and it would help if you could **return the form no later than 2nd April**. On behalf of Sampford Arundel Parish Council and the Community Council for Somerset, thank you for your participation.

Yours sincerely

(signed) Janet Lloyd

Chairperson
Sampford Arundel Parish Council