

## HOUSING

Our consultation demonstrated that affordable homes for local people was the top priority for improving housing opportunities.<sup>25</sup> The results highlight a certain amount of conflict however, as many residents did not want to see new housing development. It will be important to balance the requirements of the South East Plan with local needs and views. The Wealden Local Development Framework is the key planning mechanism which will help deliver what people in Wealden want and need over the next twenty years.

### Priorities

- Lobby for an increase in the percentage of affordable housing in developments, an extension of the requirement to include smaller schemes, and encourage affordable provision in all settlements
  - Encourage initiatives to promote the green agenda, working towards a reduction in carbon emissions, and the 'eco-homes' standards in the provision of both social and private sector housing
  - Encourage greater provision of specialist adaptation of accommodation, e.g. for older people and those with special needs, in the social and private housing sectors
  - Support the Local Development Framework Core Strategy and Wealden Design Guide to set standards and provide a means to strengthen the case for good design which is in keeping with local character. The Guide should address issues around sustainability, quality of life and the flexibility to encourage and allow new patterns of working
  - Encourage planning authorities to secure benefits from developers to contribute to adequate infrastructure in line with housing development including water, energy, transport and the provision of new jobs and services that provide for the needs of an ageing population
- Support and encourage mixed development comprising both houses and employment sites
  - Influence the Local Development Framework to allow villages to expand in order to provide small scale developments, and allow higher density dwellings (e.g. terraced houses) in rural areas providing the design and layout is appropriate and includes suitable provision for open space and parking
  - Build on partnerships and networks with private landlords to encourage best practice and access to lettings initiatives
  - Contribute to the progress of the 'HOPE' affordable housing project
  - Promote initiatives to address the 'Respect' agenda and activities to combat anti-social behaviour

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<sup>25</sup> Wealden LSP (2002) Wealden Community Planning Consultation Report of Findings