

Notes of a meeting of the working party on the possibility of affordable housing in the parish.
11 December 2023, 10:00 to 11:00 in Fairlight.

Present

Cllr Martin Griffiths, Chair

Cllr Graham Furness

Cllr Peter Knatchbull-Hugessen, Notes

Cllr Issy Horsley, Chair Fairlight PC

Pauline Collins, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Fairlight PC

The working group met with Fairlight Parish Council as Fairlight has been included in the beneficial area described by Marsham Community Land Trust (the CLT).

Fairlight Parish Council (FPC) has not yet had any discussion on affordable housing. Some councillors have attended presentations by the chair of the CLT.

The current Local Plan included affordable housing in its Development and Site Allocation (DaSA). To date the only development under that plan included no affordable housing, it being declared uneconomic.

FPC has no perception of any housing need and feels that any such need would be on the periphery. They have the suspicion that there may be some hidden housing need and believe that this might be exposed through some awareness-raising work. It was suggested that when the CLT has refined its eligibility criteria this could be made public in the hope that people would recognise their eligibility and express their interest. FPC would be happy to post such a tool on their website and to help the CLT to publicise it on other media circulated in the parish. They are keen to distinguish between expressed demand for particular types of housing, unavailable on the local housing market, and actual housing need.

There are very few employment opportunities in the parish. There are no direct public transport links between Fairlight and Pett or Guestling.