

What is Rural Housing Week?

Each year the National Housing Federation hold a Rural Housing Week to promote successful developments in our rural communities. The theme for this year is 'Building for Rural Communities'. We are taking this opportunity to celebrate the work our Housing Providers achieve developing affordable homes for the residents of Sedgemoor's rural villages.

For more information on The National Housing Federation's Rural Housing Week, go to <https://www.housing.org.uk/get-involved/celebrating-our-sector/rural-housing-week/>

What are Sedgemoor doing to celebrate Rural Housing Week?

Providing desperately needed Affordable Homes in our rural communities is very important to Sedgemoor District Council. The Housing Development team works with many rural Parish and Town Councils, to bring forward the homes that their Parishioners need.

To support this, the Housing Development team are currently working on updating the Affordable Housing Toolkit, designed to help rural communities lead the way on housing developments in their area. This tool kit will give an overview of a Staged approach that the Parish/Town Council can follow to provide affordable homes for their village.

The toolkit will include the following information and more:

- What is Affordable Housing
- Rural Planning Policies
- Local Lettings Plans
- Types of Affordable Housing
- Identifying Housing Need
- The Development Process

Why is Housing so important to Rural Communities?

Rural communities are facing a number of housing related problems, such as rural house prices rising and a lack of affordable housing provision in the past. Both of these factors being made worse due to the average salary for work in rural areas being lower than that of more urban areas. Housing provision plays a number of key roles in maintaining a sustainable rural community. Without provision of genuinely affordable homes in rural areas, there is a risk that younger generations will be priced out of the village they have grown up in. This can lead to them having to live at home for prolonged amounts of time or causing them to move to a more affordable area, away from their support networks. When the younger generations are unable to stay in their rural community, it can put facilities in the area at risk. Whether that be the school not having enough local students to remain sustainable or the demand for shops and pubs falling, putting these facilities at risk.

If you would like any more information about Rural Housing, please feel free to contact the Housing Development Team by emailing affordable.housing@sedgemoor.gov.uk



Building for rural communities

