

## West Wickham Neighbourhood Plan Newsletter December 2016

### **Housing Needs Survey**

As mentioned in the October Newsletter, a Housing Needs Survey will be carried out to assess if there is a need for affordable housing, as part of the process of developing the Neighbourhood Plan. The survey will be conducted in collaboration with Cambridgeshire ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England), an organisation that supports rural communities.

The survey forms will be hand delivered to each household in early January and completed forms will be collected for forwarding to ACRE by members of the Working Group in late January. The survey forms will be accompanied by letters from ACRE and the Parish Council and will also include a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to provide help in completing the form. If anyone has questions about the survey they can get guidance at the open meeting on Saturday 14 January (see below).

Some of the information you provide on the completed forms may be of a confidential nature and for this reason they should be returned in a sealed envelope, which will be provided.

The October Newsletter included a “Request for Information” form to enable the Working Group to deliver the Housing Needs Survey forms to those people who may not presently be residents in the Parish but who may wish to return to the Parish or have a connection to the Parish. We have received two completed forms following the circulation of the Newsletter. If you know of anyone else who has an interest in returning, could you please drop their contact details into the post box inside the old telephone box in West Wickham. We will be leaving this post box in place for the foreseeable future.

### **Working Group process**

The Working Group’s next meeting is scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> December and will be attended by representatives of Cambridgeshire ACRE. This meeting will assist us in developing the formal process for the development of the Neighbourhood Plan. Cambridgeshire ACRE will be our consultants for this process and the costs associated with this consultancy will be met by a government grant administered by an organisation called Locality.

### **Residents’ Meeting**

The Working Group has now set a date for an open meeting with residents for Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2017 in the Village Hall. The intention is to hold it as a “drop-in” meeting where you can visit at any time between 3pm and 6pm to find out information and offer comments. There will be representatives of ACRE and a housing association present to answer questions.

The Working Group’s Terms of Reference are based on the results of the 2015 Survey and these will be on display in the Hall.