

TOGETHER FOR RURAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING - STEERING GROUP

JOINING FORCES
FOR CHANGE



**RURAL
HOUSING
ENABLER**



Community First
Building better communities
in Herefordshire & Worcestershire

PURPOSE

The Herefordshire Rural Affordable Housing Steering Group is being established to develop holistic, practical, and sustainable solutions to the challenge of affordable housing in Herefordshire's rural communities. The Steering Group brings together key partners to collaborate, share expertise, and shape evidence-based recommendations for future policy and investment.

WHY THE GROUP IS NEEDED

Rural Herefordshire faces significant housing pressures, including limited supply, high prices relative to local incomes, viability challenges, and infrastructure constraints. These pressures affect community sustainability, local employment, and access to services. The Steering Group provides a coordinated forum to address these issues collectively.



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OBJECTIVES

Community First Herefordshire & Worcestershire is inviting you to join us as part of our Rural Housing Enabler Project to contribute to the work and formation of our Herefordshire Rural Affordable Housing Steering Group

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- The Steering Group will work to:
- ·Map rural housing needs, demand, and existing supply.
- ·Identify barriers to delivering affordable rural homes (planning, land availability, infrastructure, costs, skills).
- ·Explore new and innovative delivery models including community-led schemes, small-scale developments, and public-private partnerships.
- ·Develop frameworks for sustainable, context-sensitive rural housing design.
- ·Consider wider wellbeing factors: health, environment, transport, connectivity, and local economic resilience.
- ·Produce an options report and a strategic action plan with recommendations for local authorities, housing providers, funders, and partners.



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SCOPE

The Steering Group focuses on rural Herefordshire (excluding Hereford city and larger market towns) and considers all affordable tenure types including social rent, affordable rent, shared ownership, community-led housing, and self-build. While not a decision-making body, its findings will directly inform local and county-level strategies.

MEMBERSHIP

We hope Membership will include representatives from:

- Herefordshire Council
- Parish and Town Councils
- Housing Associations / Registered Providers
- Community-Led Housing Organisations and CLTs
- Developers and Landowners
- Environmental and Design Bodies
- Health and Social Care Representatives
- Economic development partners / LEP
- Voluntary and Community Sector organisations
- Academic or research partners

Additional experts may be invited for specific topics or sub-groups.



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Ways of Working

WORKING TOGETHER

- Meetings held quarterly, with task-specific sub-groups as required.
- Decisions reached by consensus where possible.
- A collaborative, transparent, and evidence-led approach.
- Chaired by Frank Myers, with secretariat support from the Rural Housing Enabler Project.
- Members are expected to contribute actively and share relevant data and insights.

KEY DELIVERABLES (FIRST 12 MONTHS)

- Rural Affordable Housing Evidence & Options Report
- Strategic Action Plan outlining short-, medium-, and long-term recommendations
- Identification of potential pilot projects or demonstrator sites
- Presentation of recommendations to Herefordshire Council and partner organisations



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Governance and Reporting



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The Steering Group reports formally to **Community First Herefordshire & Worcestershire** and the **ACRE network**.

Meeting summaries and key recommendations will be made publicly available for transparency.

Please register your interest to join the steering group please contact: rhe@comfirst.org.uk

A sign up form can also be found at www.comfirst.org.uk/rural-housing



SCAN ME



ACTION WITH
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