



# Affordable Rural Housing Schemes Tour

21<sup>st</sup> July 2011

## A guide for Parish Councils

### Introduction

This coach trip tour to four rural affordable housing schemes, at different stages of the process was arranged by Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC) specifically for the benefit of parish councillors. The tour provided them with a full day visiting a mix of rural affordable housing schemes and an opportunity to meet and ask questions of residents, development and management staff representatives of Housing Associations, Community Land Trusts and parish councillors.

In addition, GRCC's Rural Housing Enabler, Martin Hutchings and ACRE's (Action for Communities in Rural England) Housing & Planning Officer, Ally Rood were available throughout the day to answer planning and housing related questions.

### Participants

Chalford Parish Council (Stroud)

Churcham Parish Council (Forest of Dean)

Coaley Parish Council (Stroud)

Ebrington Parish Council (Cotswolds)

Frampton-on-Severn PC (Stroud)

Kempsford Parish Council (Cotswolds)

Minsterworth Parish Council (Tewkesbury)

Nailsworth Parish Council (Stroud)

Northleach with Eastington Parish Council (Cotswolds)

Shipton Parish Council (Cotswolds)

Tibberton Parish Council (Forest of Dean)

ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England)

Severn Vale Housing Society

Bromford Group

Guinness Trust

Stonesfield Community Trust

GRCC (Gloucestershire Rural Community Council)

## Schemes visited

Four schemes were selected on account of their differing characteristics in terms of land lord (housing association and community land trust, tenure (rent or low cost home ownership) and construction (two schemes well established having been built 10 years ago or more, one under construction, and one still a field).

Scheme address	Scheme description	Housing Association Landlord/developer
Church Row, Gretton	A rural exception site - literally a green field with the benefit of planning consent for 4 affordable dwellings. Construction works due to commence on site end of 2011.	Severn Vale Housing Society
Ley Orchard, Willersey	A rural exception site built 2001 consisting 22 dwellings including 7 equity share and 15 social rented units.	Bromford Group (originally Cheltenham & District Housing Association at time of construction)
Elm Grove, Ebrington, Nr Chipping Campden	A rural exception site of 9 units currently under construction including rented and shared ownership	Guinness Trust is the developer/ Gloucestershire Rural Housing Association is the landlord/Severn Vale Housing Society is the managing agent
Stonesfield	15 rented dwellings	Stonesfield Community Land Trust

## Feedback

Below are quotes received from participants who came on the tour.

***“Thank you (and your CEO) for a great day today. Well organised and very informativ. Not only was your itinerary, well thought out (green development to well established developments) it focussed our minds on many other aspects of community needs. I had the opportunity to be in the company of several other councillors and their approach to their individual parish needs. Great to establish new contacts and share best practice. Your trip today provided much more than you could imagine. I would like to see the results of the Gretton development, perhaps in the spring of next year. Please keep our council on your contact list.”***

***“Thank you so much for organising such an interesting visit today. I very much enjoyed seeing different projects, and particularly valued seeing building in progress, and meeting the people who might be involved in our project.”***

## Actions

As a result of this successful trip, the following actions were agreed:

1. Rural Housing Enabler to circulate a copy of the Section 106 Agreement for the Gretton scheme to parish councillors for information (to be supplied by Mark Ramdehal Severn Vale Housing Society)
2. Following requests from several parish councillors, the Rural Housing Enabler would arrange a return visit next year following the completion of the housing schemes in Gretton and Ebrington

3. The following parish councils wish to work with the Rural Housing Enabler to undertake Housing Needs Surveys in their parishes:
- Chalford (Stroud District)
  - Minsterworth (Tewkesbury Borough)
  - Coaley (Stroud District)

**Martin Hutchings**

**Rural Housing Enabler**

**GRCC**

**August 2011**