

All residents of Silverton Parish

Dear Parishioner,

Is there a need for affordable homes in the Parish of Silverton?

Silverton Parish Council wishes to establish the extent of housing need in the Parish. The best way to identify this is to carry out a Parish Housing Needs Survey; therefore we are distributing a questionnaire in partnership with **Devon Communities Together (DCT)**. DCT is an independent non-profit-making charity, part of the Devon Rural Housing Partnership, and will produce an independent report.

Whether you consider yourself in need or not, the information you provide is very important, so please spend a few minutes filling in the form. The information provided will greatly assist decision making by the Parish and District Councils.

None of the personal information provided on the form will be disclosed to the Parish Council or the Neighbourhood Plan, and will be seen only by DCT staff. No data will be published in the Report which can identify an individual.

How to complete the Housing Needs Survey form:

This survey is in three sections.

- **Part 1:** Is for everyone to complete.
- **Part 2:** Is only for completion by households with at least one member over the age of 55.
- **Part 3:** You only need to complete this part of the form if you need affordable housing now or expect to do so in the next 5 years and would like to remain in the parish.

What do we mean when we talk about being in 'housing need'? It can include newly forming households, mature children who would like to move out of their parents' home, or possibly older people looking for more appropriate accommodation. If you are an owner occupier you would not normally qualify for affordable housing, but if you have been accepted onto Devon Home Choice or you have special circumstances you may qualify and should complete the form. If you have a housing need you will need to contact Mid Devon District Council or register with Devon Home Choice if you have not already done so. If you are an owner occupier and you might be considering moving or downsizing in the future, please complete part 2.

A separate Part 3 is needed for each individual or separate group of people forming a new household. You can photocopy the form, or more copies can be obtained from Janice Alexander, whose details are set out above. **Even if you are registered with Mid Devon District Council or Devon Home Choice, please complete and return the form.** If you are already living in Social Housing and you need to move you should also complete Part 3 of this form even if your landlord is already aware of your need.

If you know of someone who has had to move away because of the cost of local housing, please make sure they receive a copy of the form if they would like to move back to the parish.

Please return the form in the envelope provided as soon as possible but no later than 18th March 2016. If you have any queries about the survey or need help with the form please contact Janice Alexander on the details above.

We do not know how many local people need homes that they can afford. Please help us to find out.

Yours sincerely

Silverton Parish Council & Devon Communities Together