

Community Land Trust for Steyning

About a year ago the Parish Council commissioned a housing needs survey from “Action In Rural Sussex” who are a community charity working in the Sussex area with rural communities on various projects. AIRS has now come forward with a proposal to form a Community Land Trust (CLT). CLTs are small scale housing associations run solely by a group of community minded people, in a very specific local area. The idea would be that the CLT would acquire a piece of land, either within an urban envelope or on the fringe of it under what is known as a “rural exceptions policy” in planning terms and then build it for affordable homes of say a small scale development up to 10-20 units.

At present there aren't any CLTs in Sussex as this is a fairly new concept but AIRS feels that Steyning might be a suitable candidate to form one because the housing needs survey threw up a need of about 60-70 affordable homes requirements nearly all from local residents or families who wish to stay in the Steyning area. An example of this is children growing up and wishing to stay in the family location, but being unable to get on the housing ladder at present.

At the moment this is an abstract concept, and has not come before any Parish Council committee. What do you think? Your views and comments are invited.

Further information on CLTs can be obtained from Tom Warder at AIRS whose email address is Tom.Warder@ruralsussex.org.uk.

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