

Housing Needs Survey



What is it and why should I complete it?

It is a survey of housing need in our Parish. A lack of suitable and affordable housing in rural communities has been a serious problem for many years, with house prices outstripping average incomes by large margins.

We'd like you to fill this in to give us some up-to-date concrete evidence of what our Parish needs.

What will it be used for?

The last housing needs survey was carried out in 2014, so we are updating the survey to find out what homes local people need.

The results will be helpful to the Parish Council when responding to planning applications and help to shape local developments.

Who is this for?

Anyone who will need alternative housing in the next 5 years and either:

- already lives in the Parish; or
- wants to live in the Parish and has a local connection to it.

The Parish includes Arreton, Merstone and Blackwater. A map of the Parish Boundaries can be found by following the survey link below.

Some examples of needing alternative housing are:

- you want to downsize,
- you are currently living at home with parents and want your own home,
- you are in temporary accommodation,
- you'd like to buy your own home but cannot afford open market prices,
- you work in the Parish and would like to live locally

A separate form should be completed by each group of people (e.g. family, single person, couple) in need of alternative housing.

How can I complete it?

Paper copies are available to pick up / drop off at: Arreton Post Office, The White Lion, Leslies Motors in Blackwater or the Riverside Centre in Newport.

Surveys are available from Monday 5th August 2024.

Available Online at: <https://form.jotform.com/241922964266060>.

When do I have to return it by?

Surveys must be returned by Sunday 15th September 2024.

Thank you for participating in this survey. Arreton Parish Council.

Data is being collected on our behalf by Community Action Isle of Wight (an independent charity that supports rural communities across the Island). All information is treated in confidence and returns are anonymised.
Contact Gretel Halson Ingham, Rural Housing Enabler - gingham@actioniw.org.uk or 01983 539373.



Scan me to fill in
the online survey

While we're writing to you...

Why is it important for Island residents to register on HomeFinder?

Island HomeFinder is the only way to get onto the Island's social housing list, but isn't just for this kind of accommodation. It is for anyone looking for more affordable housing options and, as well as social rented properties, it also advertises:

- Affordable/Intermediate rented
- Discounted sale
- Part buy/part rent (shared ownership)
- HomeBuy (shared equity)

This would include many of the houses being developed in new local estates across the Island by registered social or private landlords. If you aren't on HomeFinder you won't be able to apply for these properties.

There are many people out there who may feel aggrieved that they haven't been able to access affordable accommodation which has been built on their doorstep but may have been able to if they were registered on HomeFinder.

There are some straightforward qualifying criteria which are laid out on the HomeFinder website: islandhomefinder.org.uk. A local connection is the key criterion, and you will be able to register if:

- You/your partner or close relatives (parent, sibling or adult child) have lived on the Island for 5 years; or
- You/your partner have worked on the Island for 2 years.

There are also some other detailed criteria for those at risk; please look at the detailed information on the HomeFinder website.

Registering on HomeFinder is a relatively straightforward process via the website. You will get a unique number which you will use when you log in and will either need to bid every week on properties you are interested in or set up an auto-bid for the specific kind(s) of properties you are interested in and in particular areas.

For more details, see the HomeFinder website or contact the Council's Housing Team on housing@iow.gov.uk or (01983) 823040.