

Dear Mr Warmington,

Opportunity to hear about how your community can benefit from the new Government funds to support community led housing.

I am writing to you about community led housing and how it can deliver new homes within your parish which specifically meet the needs of your community. I have been appointed as the Project Development Manager of the new Herefordshire Centre for Community Led Housing (HCCLH). This is funded by Herefordshire Council, through Year 1 of the new Community Housing Fund. The Centre has been set up to promote community led housing and provide support to town & parish councils and community organisations to deliver locally owned and controlled solutions to housing need.

I am happy to deliver a short presentation and answer questions about this. This could be at a formal meeting or training evening. Alternatively, I am happy to speak further about this on the telephone. I will be organising a public meeting in Ledbury for early October about community led housing but would very much welcome interest from the town council as well.

The following explains a little more about what community led housing is and how it could help your community remain vibrant and sustainable for the long term.

In some communities a community led development might create homes for local people who wish to stay in the area but find that hard given the current state of the property market as related to earnings. In others it may involve creating housing for older people who may wish to downsize to more suitable accommodation without having to leave the area.

Community led housing meets such needs because the motive for creating it comes from the local community and most importantly the homes remain in the ownership and control of that community in perpetuity.

The government announced last month that the Community Housing Fund will be extended for a further 2 years. It can provide revenue and capital grants to enable local communities to deliver affordable housing. I can provide advice on all the steps involved from community engagement and finding sites and funding, to planning and building the homes. There are communities in Herefordshire at various stages in their journey and I am also involved in helping them understand the many routes towards creating the housing their community needs for the long term. For example, last week I took one group to visit a community led housing project which has been up and running for 10 years now and other visits are planned to learn from groups who have already done this. (www.thresholdcentre.org and www.bcclt.co.uk/)

I enclose a briefing document about HCCLH, along with the letter which contains more about us and how we can help.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Nancy Winfield ,Project Development Manager, HCCLH

Contact Details: Mob: 07999925545 Email: hcclh.pm@gmail.com