



URED ALE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Housing Working Group

Dear Parish and Town Council colleagues,

A new opportunity for community-led and affordable housing

We are writing to draw your attention to an important opportunity for rural communities arising from the new **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2026**.

The revised planning framework gives significantly clearer national recognition to **community-led housing, rural exception sites, affordable housing for local people and locally evidenced housing need**.

For Parish and Town Councils concerned about the availability of genuinely affordable homes for local residents, this provides a stronger basis for exploring what might be possible in your community.

The new national policy particularly supports **rural exception sites providing affordable housing to meet identified local needs**, and gives **substantial weight to meeting evidenced community housing needs**.

This is potentially very relevant across Uredale, where the cost and availability of housing can affect young people, families, older residents and local employers.

What can your Parish or Town Council do?

You don't need to have all the answers – or even have identified a site – to get started.

The first steps could simply be to:

- 01 establish what housing your community actually needs;
- 02 review any existing evidence of local housing need;
- 03 consider whether a local housing needs survey would be useful – it's free via NYC;
- 04 identify potential sites or landowners who might be willing to explore an opportunity; and
- 05 start an early conversation with North Yorkshire Council.

The Uredale Community Partnership Housing Working Group would like to help.

We can assist Parish and Town Councils in **finding relevant information and evidence**, **understanding the planning framework**, **identifying potential development and funding partners**, and **making connections with the appropriate teams within North Yorkshire Council**.

We can also help explore how local housing initiatives might connect with the wider priorities of the **York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority**, particularly around rural communities, economic development, skills, employment and infrastructure.

Why community-led housing?

Community-led housing provides an opportunity for local people to have a genuine role in deciding what is built, where it is built and how the resulting homes continue to benefit the community.

It does not necessarily mean a large development. A small rural exception site providing **six, eight or ten affordable homes** could make a significant difference to the future of a village.

- The aim should be to provide homes that local people can genuinely afford and that remain an asset to the community over the long term.

ENCLOSED We have enclosed a more detailed **Planning Policy Briefing on Community-Led and Affordable Housing**, which explains the new national planning framework and the relevant North Yorkshire and former Harrogate planning policies in more detail.

We would encourage Parish and Town Councils to consider whether there is a local housing issue that they would like to explore and, if so, to **start the conversation with us**.

Our next full Uredale Community Partnership meeting, on **Wednesday 9 December 2026 (9am to 12.30pm)**, will focus on housing, including community-led housing, rural challenges and affordable homes. It will be a chance for Parish and Town Councils from across Uredale to come together, and we would very much welcome your council's involvement.

You do not have to have a project already planned. The Housing Working Group is keen to work with communities at an early stage and help identify what might be possible.

GET IN CONTACT WITH US

Email the Housing Working Group to start the conversation

hello@uredalecp.com

Together, we can help ensure that Uredale's villages remain places where local people can afford to live, work, raise families and grow older.

Yours faithfully,

David Ingham, Uredale Community Partnership
Chair, Housing Working Group