

Dear Parish Councils,

The Council is committed to the delivery of affordable housing and has strict allocation policies to ensure that residents with a strong connection to Uttlesford receive the priority they require. Developer led housing schemes are known as Section 106 (S106) and are allocated through the Choice Based Lettings system known as HomeOption. Homes for local people with a strong connection to a particular Parish are served through the Rural Exception Scheme, whereby housing need is assessed through the Housing Needs Survey which guides the scheme delivered in partnership with the local community. Such homes are allocated on connection to the Parish (first) and then allocated on the basis of need.

Housing need is detailed in the Council's Allocation Policy. This policy has four bandings (A-C &E). Bands A-C focus on residents with housing needs due to illness, mobility, age or overcrowding. Band E recognises individuals and households who are unable to form their own independent home due to finances, or, in the case of residents living in private rented accommodation, are paying more than 35% of their income on their rent.

Local residents living in a Parish that has received S106 housing would not be allocated housing based solely on their connection to the Parish, but would be assessed on the merits of their application.

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Housing Options Team who wish to encourage local residents (specifically), who may recognise their housing situation as per the 'Band E' allocation policy, to register their housing need on the Council's housing register via the HomeOptions website (www.Homeoption.org.uk)

Residents wishing to discuss their application prior to registering may contact a member of the Housing Options/homeless prevention team on 01799 510 510, whilst any Councillors who wish to discuss the contents of this letter are welcome to contact myself on the details below.

Yours sincerely,

Stephanie

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