



The Midhurst Society

Copy of email sent to SDNPA
14 October 2019

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Dear Sirs,

We have read your Consultation draft (September – November 2019) and commend you on a well-prepared document that stands a real chance of easing the problem in the National Park.

We have no criticism, except to suggest that you might have gone further. There are a number of vacant properties in the Park (including Midhurst) – some of which have been unoccupied for a number of years. There might be very good reasons why this is so, but we feel that the property owners should be given an incentive to return them to active use.

One way would be to enable a Community Land Trust, under certain circumstances, to bid for such a property. In certain circumstances, the owner would have to accept. Assuming he wanted to avoid such an outcome, he might be more motivated to act in a timely manner!

Perhaps the circumstances could be along the lines of:

- If a domestic property is unoccupied for a period in excess of five years a Community Land Trust shall be entitled to make a bid for such property, such bid to benefit from a discount of 50% of the market value.

Of course, if the circumstances are such that a property is incapable of being occupied, the CLT would not wish to bid for it and the owner would not suffer. This would simply affect owners who are wilfully refusing to bring property back into circulation.

Sincerely,

Harvey Tordoff

Vice Chairman

The Midhurst Society

"Making Midhurst a better place to live, work and enjoy"

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