

L W	Little Wolford
P M	Parish Meeting

## What is a Housing Needs Assessment?

The purpose of a Housing Needs Assessment is to determine the need for additional (primarily "affordable") housing within a community, as distinct from open market demand. It takes the form of a survey distributed to every household in the community, the data collected from survey returns being analysed to produce a formal report.

If such a need is identified - and it usually will be - this report can be used to support a planning application for affordable housing on a Rural Exception Site (an area of greenbelt land where planning permission would not normally be permitted other than in very exceptional circumstances). Such permission will be granted only where a "clear need" for housing has been demonstrated, and a Housing Needs Assessment report can provide this. Development on a Rural Exception Site will usually be carried out by a Housing Association; the affordable properties built will normally be available only to those with a strong connection to the local area.

Examples of such Assessments, and more details on what they are and how they can be undertaken, is available on [Stratford-on-Avon District Council's website](#).

[Warwickshire Rural Community Council](#) offers a Housing Needs Survey Service to communities whereby it arranges the printing of all survey materials, covers all postage costs, analyses the data collected from survey returns and produces a written report of the survey results.