

## Haslemere Community Land Trust Housing Needs Survey – Summer 2018

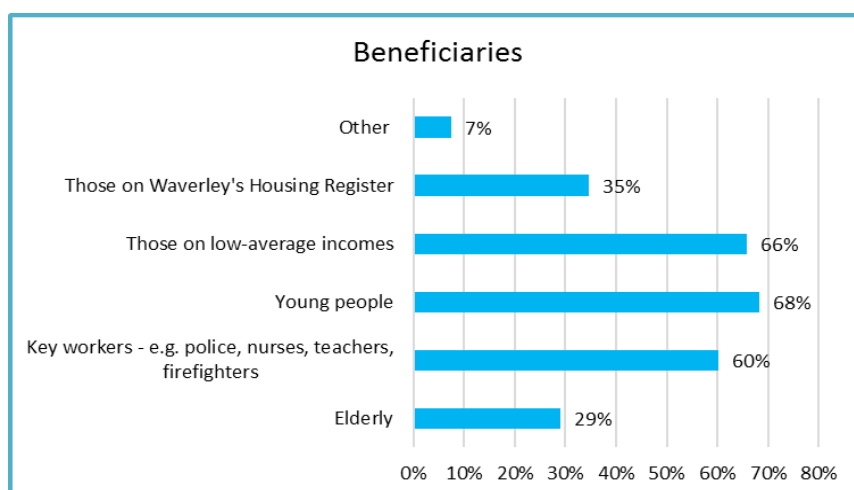
Common sense tells you that most young people and workers on average pay would be unable to secure a home of their own in Haslemere – but anyone seriously hoping to do something about it needs the facts. So it was that the Haslemere Community Land Trust conducted a housing-needs survey in early summer this year – and the results of those long, hot, leaflet-delivering days have yielded much food for thought.

The leaflets urged residents to fill in an online survey professionally devised to elicit attitudes as well as information that will enable the CLT to better understand the barriers, aspirations and levels of support for developing affordable homes for local people. Respondents without computers were able to complete the survey on paper

A total of 224 people completed the survey and, although almost half considered themselves well housed, we also heard from 113 households who did not feel their housing needs were being met. Roughly half of these were privately renting.

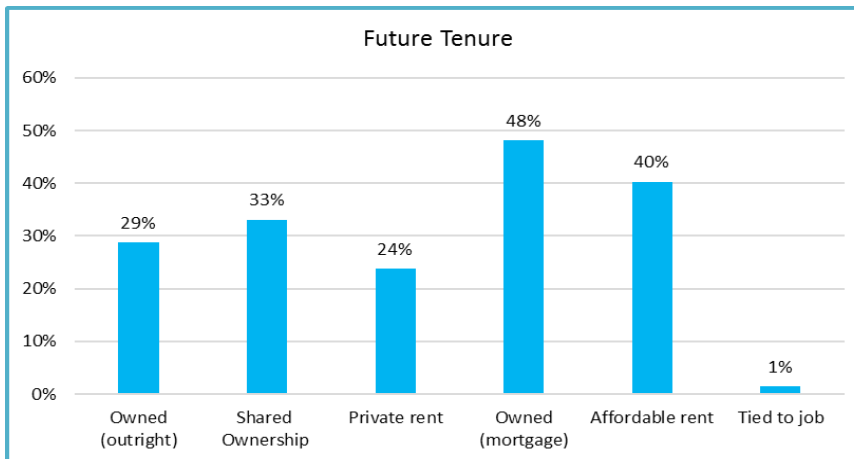
We were delighted to find that 83% of respondents expressed support for our aspirations to provide small local developments of homes; while a massive 91% were keen to see the conversion of unused buildings to housing units. The use of previously uncultivated land for housing was backed by 73%.

When asked who they thought should benefit from the homes, the responses were spread across a number of areas, as can be seen below.



Most of those who were looking to move fell into the 22-40 age bracket, this ties in with the number of people looking to start their first home.

With house prices in the borough at 13.7 times the average salary, it was no surprise that the main reasons cited by many who wanted to move was to set up their first home or because they found local rents unaffordable. It was pleasing to see that that 54% of those looking to rent would prefer to do so via a housing association or trust such as ours.



Although 48% wanted to get onto the property ladder, many of those who gave this as a preference are unlikely to be able to afford to do so in Haslemere without significant help.

Eighty three households were looking to rent, 21 of which were already registered with Waverley.

However, 38 of these households would be unable to afford to rent a one-bedroom flat in the town, and only five would be able to afford anything above a two-bed terrace.

The proof is here that our work is needed, and that a substantial number of local residents stand in support.

We thank all those who took part or helped – especially David Cowan and Louise Williams of Surrey Community Action.