

# MID-CHERWELL OLDER PEOPLE'S HOUSING OPTIONS SURVEY

November 2019



## **Does your household require housing to meet your needs as you get older?**

Eleven parishes in the local area recently came together to produce the Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan (MCNP). This plan includes a list of Community Actions. One of these actions is to investigate future housing and care options for older people living in our area. As people are living longer, their care needs grow. Also, some local families may want to find accommodation for their older relatives living elsewhere, who would now benefit from moving closer to their children and grandchildren.

This survey is therefore being undertaken to assess local needs for this type of housing. The survey looks at the demand for both small-scale sheltered housing developments in a village setting and also for a larger extra care housing scheme of around 45 units, where more facilities can be provided.

The survey is supported by the following parish councils, parish meetings and resident's associations: Lower Heyford Parish Council; Upper Heyford Parish Council; Steeple Aston Parish Council; Middle Aston Parish Meeting; North Aston Parish Meeting; Somerton Parish Council; Fritwell Parish Council; Ardley with Fewcott Parish Council; Kirtlington Parish Council; Duns Tew Parish Council; Heyford Park Parish Council; Heyford Park Residents Association.

**The survey is being undertaken for MCNP by Community First Oxfordshire (CFO). CFO is a charity that supports communities across Oxfordshire. All information given will be kept in accordance with General Data Protection Regulations 2018 (CFO's privacy statement is available at [www.communityfirstoxon.org](http://www.communityfirstoxon.org)). CFO will analyse the survey results and prepare a summary report for the MCNP Forum and supporting parish councils etc.**

If you, or a member of your household is likely to need housing suitable for older people in the future, please complete this survey and return it using the *Freepost* envelope. If you know of anyone with similar needs who is not currently living locally but who might be interested in returning to the area, please contact Rachel Riach at CFO (contact details below) and she will send a survey questionnaire to them.

**If you need assistance with completing the survey or you need additional survey forms for members of your household, please contact Rachel Riach:**

**[rachael.riach@communityfirstoxon.org](mailto:rachael.riach@communityfirstoxon.org) 01865 883 488.**

**communityfirst**  
oxfordshire  
Helping communities help themselves

**Please return your survey in the  
FREEPOST envelope provided by  
DECEMBER 18**

## More information about specialist housing choices for older people

### SHELTERED HOUSING

Sheltered housing could suit you if you want to live independently but need a bit more support, or if you want to live in a smaller and easier-to-manage home. This usually takes the form of a small housing scheme of 1/2/3 bed houses or apartments in a low-rise courtyard setting, with each housing unit being specially adapted to meet the needs of older people. It is usually only available to those aged 55 and over. Sheltered housing can be available privately or through local councils/ housing associations, based on need.

Some common features of sheltered housing include:

- help from a scheme manager (warden), or support staff
- 24-hour emergency help through an alarm system
- communal areas, such as gardens or lounges
- social activities for residents.



Features vary from scheme to scheme. At some schemes you get more support than others. If you're interested in a particular scheme, make sure you understand what services are available, how much they cost and whether you would be eligible for any help with these costs.

Meals, help around the home, and personal care services such as help with bathing are not usually provided. You can arrange a package of services from the local authority or a private care agency. Therefore, sheltered housing is better-suited for more able-bodied residents wishing to downsize but wanting to remain in the neighbourhood / locality.

We are particularly interested in assessing the degree of local support for small-scale sheltered housing schemes of up to about 12 units of 1/2/3 bed dwellings. These could include dwellings with larger than average floorplans to allow a degree of flexibility for the future. Such schemes could be in the villages of Steeple Aston, Fritwell and Kirtlington (which our Neighbourhood Plan agrees are capable of supporting some new development), if a site or sites can be found.

### RETIREMENT HOUSING

Retirement housing is similar to sheltered housing but is usually built by private developers for sale and may not have communal facilities. Once the properties have been sold, the scheme is usually run by a separate management company who employ the scheme manager and organise maintenance and other services.