

## ANTROBUS PARISH COUNCIL

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEME

The project was to provide a small development of affordable houses for shared ownership or rent. This would enable local people to stay in the community and ensure affordable homes in Antrobus in perpetuity. We started by forming a working party consisting of members of Antrobus Parish Council. As there were no other rural housing projects in Vale Royal guidelines, data and information was gathered over a period of months from a wide variety of sources. A parish-wide questionnaire was distributed and the results analysed. An open meeting was held to discuss the proposals with the villagers. Having received a favourable response to the presentation a decision was made to progress further. Meetings with housing associations were held in order to determine a suitable partner. A second questionnaire was carried out to determine specific needs and a search was begun for an acceptable site. In spite of some set-backs in obtaining adequate funding and suitable land these were eventually overcome and a planning application was submitted. A further public meeting was held and planning permission obtained.

Initially, we saw the scheme as probably two or four houses for shared ownership. We soon became aware of the need for rented properties. Changes in national and local social and economic trends caused us to constantly adapt to meet changing circumstances. Thus our final planning submission was for six rented and two shared ownership houses. Later two further houses for rent were built.

#### Chronology of Key Dates

July 1988	Idea first put forward at APC meeting.
September 1988	Working party of Antrobus Parish Councillors formed
Feb – May 1989	Meetings with Cheshire Community Council and Vale Royal Borough Council
Nov 98 – Jan 1990	Village survey – questionnaire and fact finding
May 1990	Open Meeting Antrobus Village Hall - Parish Council, Rural Housing Trust, Cheshire Community Council and villagers
Nov 90 – Jan 1991	Selection of housing association (3 interviewed)
Jan/Feb 1991	Second questionnaire to ascertain specific demand
March 1991	Funding for 4 rented houses from the Housing Corporation
May 1991	Architect appointed
June 1991	Funding available for 2 further houses, prospective occupants interviewed
July 1991	Problems with site – landowner imposing conditions, alternative site sought
Sept 1991	Letting policy (106 Agreement) drawn up
Nov 1991	Plans drawn up for Site 2
January 1992	Housing Corporation allocation switched to 92/93
February 1992	Land purchased (contracts exchanged)
March 1992	Open evening Antrobus Village Hall. Plans displayed
May 1992	Plans submitted for 6 rented, 4 shared ownership. Withdrawn and resubmitted September 1992, 6 rented, 2 shared ownership
November 1992	Planning application approved. Scheme to tender
February 1993	Sod cutting ceremony held
November 1993	Houses occupied
June 1995	Funding and planning permission for 2 further houses for rent

Scheme completed. 8 houses to rent, 2 shared ownership.