

Statement on housing from Wendron Parish Council

Date: 11th April 2022

To: The Right Honourable George Eustice M.P
The Right Honourable Stuart Andrew M.P. (Minister of State for Housing)
Cornwall Councillor Ollie Monk

From: Wendron Parish Council

The Members of Wendron Parish Council recognise that the housing crisis is a serious issue in Cornwall. We also acknowledge that national Government controls our planning regulations and that as a parish council we are unable to do more to directly improve the situation; however, we resolve to lobby those who *are* able to effect improvement including Cornwall Council and Cornwall's MPs.

Specifically, we would like to see:

1. The end of the "Right-to-Buy" and "Right-to-Acquire" schemes.
2. A new definition of "Affordable Housing" that is linked to local earnings.
3. New homes prioritised for local need and occupancy.
4. Cornwall Council build more council owned homes.
5. More effective utilisation of existing housing stock.
6. Second homes subject to a multiplier of council tax which is passed back to local communities.
7. Scrutiny of the principle of registering houses as businesses whereby owners can claim business rate relief, often despite living outside Cornwall.
8. New builds delivered to the highest standards of construction and sustainability.
9. Tenancy agreements that offer security and are humane.

By resolving the housing crisis we hope that Cornwall remains an attractive living and working place – for all – and that many deep seated social and economic issues are obviated. Only by committing to ethical principles whereby the right of everyone to have shelter is upheld will we move towards a fairer and more humane society. We urge Cornwall Council to recognise the housing crisis based on this principle so that it can be resolved with the utmost urgency.