

## Notice of Motion - A Local Town Connection Policy

### Motion from Councillor Sharon Davy

#### Preamble:

I hope that colleagues feel able to support a fairer, more localised housing allocation policy for our *towns* throughout the Lewes District. A new Town Local Connection Policy that can be included in the forthcoming Housing Policy Consultation.

Fair and flexible: statutory guidance on social housing allocations for local authorities in England was published in December 2009. The document sets out more clearly the freedoms and flexibilities that local authorities should use when developing allocation policies in their area. It's all about localism.

We have a Local Connection criteria and Allocation of Rural Properties policy that gives preference for those who live within the *rural area* - have permanent employment within the rural area - have close relatives who have resided in the rural area for a minimum of five years. A policy that is imperative to keep our villages alive and help the younger generation find homes, as well as bringing up their children and attending our first class schools.

The vast majority of people on the housing register ideally would like a home in their town of choice where they were born, or brought up. Often, with local and sustainable family and friends support. Or, they are in permanent employment within the town and a valuable asset to the community.

At Planning Committee Meetings, we constantly speak of localism – local housing for local people. Our Housing Department does not currently have a policy to give preference to applicants and families living in our towns. Insofar as the law permits, our policy should do so – just as it does for our rural villages.

This is an opportune moment for elected Councillors to have input and put forward a new policy that will benefit residents living in our towns and the District as a whole, I welcome your support.

#### Proposed Motion:

#### **I call upon Full Council:**

“To incorporate in the forthcoming Housing Allocation Policy Review a Local Connection criteria for towns, so far as is lawfully possible”.