

*Please do not think that this doesn't affect you – it does! If we lose our schools, shops and pubs, and people cannot afford to live here, our communities die, house prices drop and no-one wants to come here!*

*Think about these scenarios:*

- *Your children (whether grown up now or still at school, or even yet to be born!) and how they might want to remain here but have the independence of their own home.*
- *Your children or grand-children who have moved away but now want to return here.*
- *Your own circumstances – if you become separated from a partner, divorced, bereaved or ill and need to downsize, but want to remain in your community.*
- *Your staff – how can you attract staff to your business if there is no affordable, good quality accommodation locally?*

**PLEASE HELP US!**

**COME TO THE MEETING AND  
FILL IN THE SURVEY.**

## **IMPORTANT PUBLIC MEETING**



**MONDAY 16<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER**

**7.00 PM**

### **ASKRIGG FOUNDATION PREMISES MARKET PLACE, ASKRIGG**

- *Are you concerned about the future of our rural communities?*
- *Do you have a family member who cannot afford to live here?*
- *Do you operate a local business but cannot attract new staff because of high house prices and lack of stock?*
- *Are you concerned that not enough is being done to address the issue of a lack of affordable housing in our community?*
- *Are you in the dark about the Community Led Housing Scheme?*

*If you can answer 'yes' to any of these questions, please come along to our annual meeting where there will be a presentation from Amanda Madden, Rural Housing Enablement Officer at Richmondshire District Council about the Community Led Housing Scheme and how it could benefit our community*

*Your views are important!*

- It is a fact that two-thirds of those people renting cannot afford a deposit to buy a property.
- Many of our younger generations are leaving the area and not returning due to a lack of affordable housing and well-paid jobs.
- Who is going to buy your home when you die or have to move elsewhere? It is increasingly unlikely to be a local resident.
- A large percentage of our current housing stock is already represented by the second-home or holiday-let market. This is leading to our villages and towns turning into 'ghost' communities, with many properties empty during the week or outside prime holiday times.
- Our local schools, pubs and shops are under threat with insufficient residents to sustain numbers and trade.

The Community Led Housing Scheme is a government funded scheme to assist communities in addressing their issues of unaffordable/unobtainable housing which in turn is causing those communities to be under threat of demise.

The scheme is available in areas with a high percentage of second-homes, such as ours.

The CLH offers communities the opportunity to redress this situation themselves by forming groups to either renovate old, empty properties, or build new ones, setting their own lettings policy but retaining control over those properties, never allowing them to enter the open market for purchase. This ensures low cost, local housing is available to the community now and in the future, keeping that community alive, and retaining control within the community group. The properties themselves not only provide a home for people wanting to live here, but also generate an income to the community group which can be used to benefit the community as a whole.

The Trustees of The Askrigg Foundation are hoping to participate in this scheme to re-develop part of their Market Place property to provide three apartments for local residents. BUT ..... in order to do this, we need your support! A Housing Need Survey must be undertaken to demonstrate the need for such properties and this has recently been sent to every home in the Parishes of Askrigg & Low Abbotside and Bainbridge & Raydaleside. The results of this survey will determine whether Trustees can proceed with the scheme.

The survey forms are anonymous and confidential, only being seen by the Rural Housing Enablement Officer at Richmondshire District Council, who will analyse them and produce a report to the Trustees with the findings. You can, if you wish, put your name and contact details on the survey if you would like to put yourself forward for one of the properties and therefore need to be kept updated on progress of the scheme.

The Trustees are keen to follow this path which will allow them to make full use of their property whilst benefiting the community through offering local affordable housing and generating an income to allow the remaining parts of the property to provide services to benefit the community. This will be a lasting a legacy for future generations.

Please come along to the meeting on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October to learn more about the scheme and perhaps inspire another group in our community to follow this lead. We need to take action NOW to ensure we have sustainable communities for future generations to enjoy. By tackling this issue now it will hopefully also benefit our local schools, pubs and shops who all require vibrant, active and sustainable communities to ensure they survive.

If you cannot attend the meeting, please make sure you return your Housing Need Survey to Richmondshire District Council by the end of October. Further copies are available from the Parish Office in Askrigg if you have lost your original one. You may not be willing or able to answer all the questions, but you can indicate your support for the low cost housing in our community in the 'Comments' box.