

# Your say « Housing in Haslemere

Express your views on housing by completing the Haslemere Vision (HV) Stage 2 Document, say Haslemere Vision

The conundrum is; do we build affordable housing on land that was previously used to provide employment? This could mean Haslemere loses possible chances of business development that would provide local jobs. Building affordable houses will enable business to recruit and retain the workforce they need. In Haslemere we need both, and have little space in which to meet this need.

We are crying out for affordable housing. High house prices, low wages and an ageing population all pile pressure on our community and local services. The cost of housing is a key element affecting disposable household income. In Haslemere, the income of local workers is commonly below that of the level required to rent/purchase without assistance, implying that local people must commute out to earn higher wages. According to a 2014 Hometrack survey, a gross household income of £36,174.00 is required in Waverley to rent at an 'affordable rent'.

Residents' responses to the HV Stage 1 Consultation last summer demonstrated a majority wishing to maintain or increase employment to promote jobs in the area. The availability of housing that people can afford may well influence the decision to expand/relocate a businesses locally. It is more efficient to have your workforce live in the area (counteracting rising transport costs and congestion on the roads) supporting the local economy.

The housing question has to be carefully managed. Unless the community is clear about its needs the market is unlikely to build what is needed at prices affordable to many local workers. Please make sure you complete your HV Stage 2 Consultation document.

Under new localism powers, Haslemere Vision has been set up as a forum of community members to help decide how the future of Haslemere and its surrounding villages will be shaped. Visit [www.haslemerevision.org.uk](http://www.haslemerevision.org.uk)



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