

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

TEST VALLEY SCHEME DELIVERS AFFORDABLE HOMES TO COMMUNITY



The Test Valley community of Houghton will get affordable new homes after the successful outcome of a two year planning negotiation.

Architects from Winchester-based BCM rural property specialists and Southampton based planning experts Turleys worked with planning officers from Test Valley Borough Council to ensure local concerns were met and the scheme remained sensitive to the Conservation Area in which it is set.

The site at Houghton Farmyard, in the heart of the village, will shortly be offered for sale to developers wishing to carry the scheme forward, says architect Mike Papps, of BCM.

“Our role was to establish the scheme, ensure it met with local wishes, and design a rural development where almost a third of the 13 homes will be affordable units,” explained Mr Papps.

“Opportunities to build village homes rarely occur and in this case it was even more important to get the scheme to a successful outcome because the homes would be in the heart of Houghton rather than placed on its fringe, thereby avoiding sprawl into greenfield sites.

“Nine of the homes will be offered on the open market and at present it’s not certain how the affordable homes will be occupied, although it’s my client’s heartfelt wish that local people should have access to them.

“The Bossington Estate wanted to create a scheme meeting housing needs that did not over-develop the site and retained the character of the surrounding area, which has sensitive landscape issues, and the immediate village, which is part of the Conservation Area. The granting of planning permission shows that with cooperation rather than confrontation there is always a solution to suit all parties.”

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